



FILE PHOTO

The Chirilagua Festival is one of Arlandria's annual traditions.

Waiting for Action Change comes slowly in Arlandria.

The name "Arlandria" evokes a kind of identity crisis. Does the neighborhood share more with Arlington or Alexandria? Perhaps its culture shares more with El Salvador, the location of the neighborhood's nickname "Chirilagua." Whatever the case, city officials have

been working for years to revitalize the streets of Arlandria for more than a decade. But change has been difficult.

SEE CHANGE, PAGE 3

The Big Ask

For years, city officials have planned to take on the responsibility — and the risk — of financing the Potomac Yard Metro station. But that put the city in a perilous position, exceeding the debt limits that the city sets for itself. Now the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority may be coming to the rescue. That's the organization that will be allocating the money raised regionally for transportation projects as a result of the landmark transportation agreement reached last year between the General Assembly and Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell.

"This creates more certainty that a portion of the revenues will be there," said Deputy City Manager Mark Jinks. "Having the regional money in hand and assured recess the risk to us if, in fact, the developer's schedule doesn't turn out to be."

This month, city leaders must submit a list of projects that they want the authority to fund for fiscal year 2015 and fiscal year 2016. That list includes \$1.5 million for construction of the Potomac Yard Metro station, although a 10-year planning document attached to that request outlines a plan to receive \$58 million from the authority over the next decade.

City officials to request \$58 million in funds to construction Potomac Yard Metro station.

TEN-YEAR WISH LIST

- ❖ \$58 million for the Potomac Yard Metro station
- ❖ \$54 million for transit corridor C, Beauregard Street
- ❖ \$20 million for transit corridor B, Duke Street
- ❖ \$16 million for real-time adaptive control and data management
- ❖ \$6 million for a transit station at Landmark Mall
- ❖ \$3 million for corridor A streetcar study

Other items on the list for fiscal year 2015 and fiscal year 2016 are \$2.4 million for transit corridor C, \$190,000 for transit corridor B and \$500,000 for real-time adaptive traffic control.

"There are a lot of people in Richmond who are looking for this to fail," said Councilman Justin Wilson. "So we need a list that's going to show this was a good idea."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

Moran Won't Seek Reelection

Longtime congressman won't run again this year, opening the door to epic primary.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Since 1991, U.S. Jim Moran (D-8) has cut a distinctive figure for himself on Capitol Hill — brash, outspoken, liberal and, at times, unpredictable. Now Moran says he will not seek a 13th term in Congress. In a written statement issued Tuesday morning, the congressman said it was time to "close this chapter of my life" and "move on to the next challenge."

"I prepare to leave Congress feeling very fortunate, grateful for what we've accomplished, and optimistic for the future of Northern Virginia, the Washington Metropolitan Region, and our nation," said Moran in the written statement. "I couldn't be more fortunate to have spent my career working with such wonderful people trying to make this one of the best places in the world to live, work and raise a family."

Moran's status as a veteran lawmaker secured him a spot as the ranking member on the House Appropriations Interior Subcommittee as well as a position as senior member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. He'll be replaced by someone who will be new to Congress, a position that will be complicated by Republican control in the House of Representatives. Nevertheless, a slew of

potential Democratic candidates has been waiting in the wings for a generation.

"Certainly I would love to have the opportunity to represent and serve the district in Congress," said Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille. "I would seriously consider a run."

Other names that have been raised as potential candidates include people who have already run for Congress such as Bruce Shuttlesworth, who ran against

Moran in the 2012 primary and lost. Democrats are also eager to hear about former elected officials eager to make a comeback, including former Mayor Kerry Donley. Members of the House of Delegates also figure prominently, including Del. Scott Surovell (D-44),

Del. Mark Sickles (D-43), Del. Patrick Hope (D-47), Del. Charniele Herring (D-46). On the Senate side, potential Democratic candidates include Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31) and Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30).

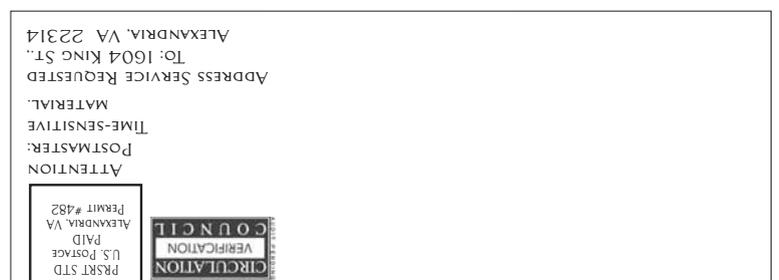
"I am honored that people think I'd make a good congressman," said Ebbin in a written statement. "I will give it the serious consideration it deserves."

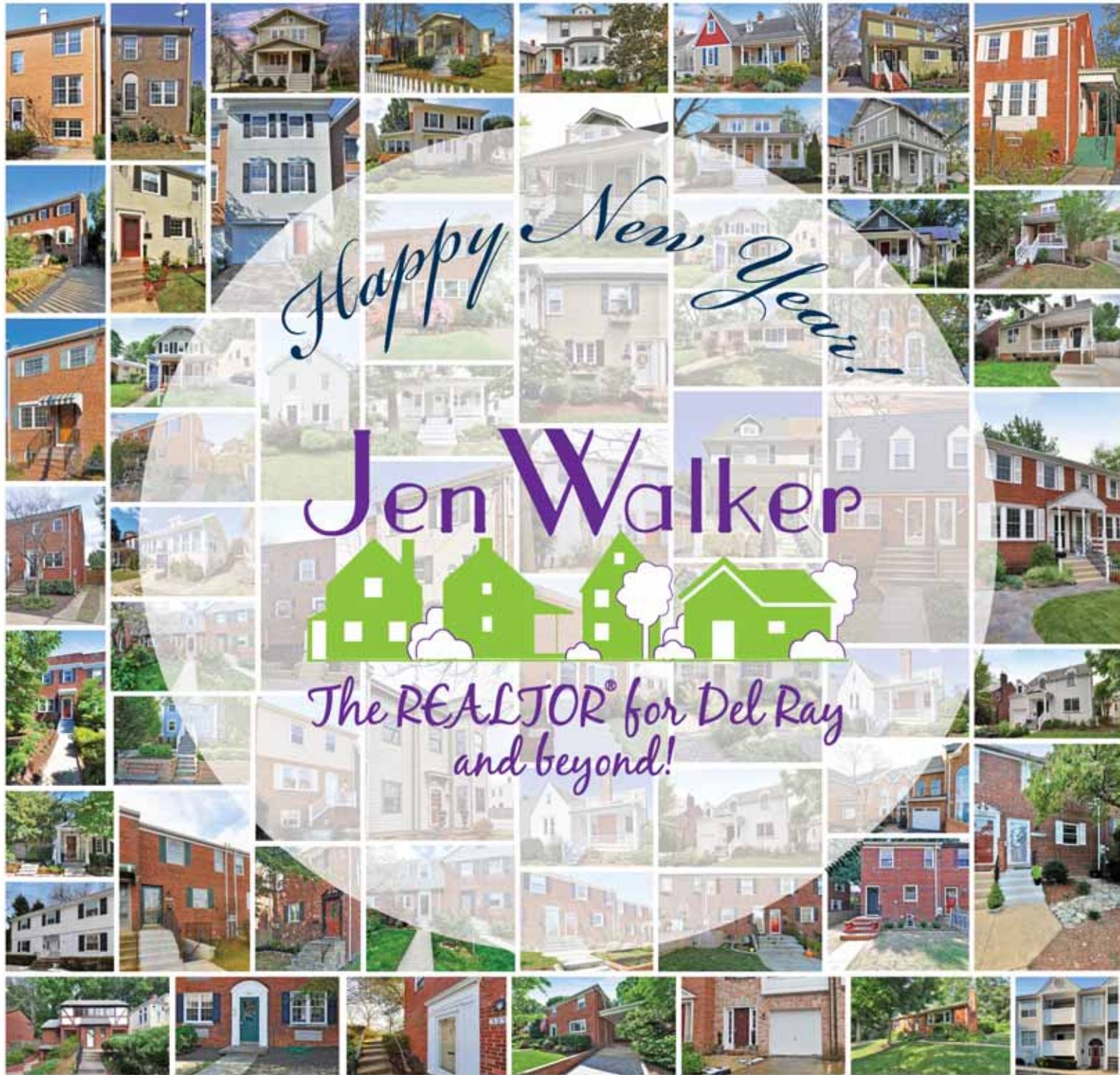
THE ANNOUNCEMENT released a floodgate of well-wishers and people eager to thank the con

SEE MORAN, PAGE 25



Moran





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COUNCIL NOTEBOOK

Polishing History

The parade of human history as marched through Alexandria with a scale that few other cities can match. It's a story that includes everything from war and pestilence to zoning appeals and bike lanes. Now, some of that history is about to be polished.

Take bootblacks, for example. Current city code includes a prohibition against bootblack stands on the streets or sidewalks. A check of the archives shows the Alexandria Bootblack Association participated in the 1876 parade celebrating George Washington's birthday, so the profession must have been prominent at one time or another. Now it may be making a comeback.

This weekend, the Alexandria City Council will conduct a public hearing to expunge the code of outdated or superfluous language. Aside from the prohibition against sidewalk bootblack stands, the revisions overturn a directive to name north-south streets to honor Confederate military leaders, regulations outlining the creation of tumbling centers in Alexandria and a prohibition against "lewd and lascivious cohabitation."

"Some of these are funny, and it's worth a good laugh," said Councilman Justin Wilson. "But cleaning up our code is vitally important."

Case in point: As recently as 2003, at least one landlord was using language from the code about "lewd and lascivious cohabitation" in a lease agreement. The public hearing is scheduled for Jan. 25.

Defunding Takeover

A state takeover is looming over Jefferson-Houston School, where test scores have been so low for so long that it's the only school to qualify for takeover under the newly created Opportunity Education Institution. As soon as this autumn, state leaders are expected to seize control of the building and its students, although city leaders are prepared to do anything they can to stop it.

Outlining the city's strategy for the upcoming General Assembly session, legislative director Bernie Caton told members of the Alexandria City Council Tuesday night that overturning the law would be a difficult if not impossible task. House Republicans are sternly in support of the idea of the institution taking over failing schools.

The new plan is to defund it.

Before he left Richmond, former Gov. Bob McDonnell introduced a bill that would provide \$600,000 in annual funding for the Opportunity Educational Institution to fund six employees. McDonnell also proposed language in the budget that sets out details for how the program will be funded in the future and which schools will be eligible. Because that same language was rejected during the 2013 veto session, Caton says opponents of the Opportunity Education Institution might be able to exploit divisions among supporters to withdraw funding and delay implementation.

"I think that's more promising than trying to repeal the law altogether," said Caton.

Shutdown Hangover

The partial government shutdown may be a matter of history now. But the economic consequences are just now beginning to emerge.

This week, members of the City Council received the latest financial statement — one of the worst in recent memory. The report showed that the city's unemployment rate spiked in October to 4.9 percent from 4.4 percent in the previous month. That's the highest October unemployment rate in four years.

"Continued increases to this indicator may impact disposable income of residents translating into continued softening of consumption based taxes, such as sales and restaurant meals taxes," wrote City Manager Rashad Young.

But wait. It gets worse. The report also said the city's hotel occupancy rate fell from 76.1 percent in October 2012 to 72.4 percent in October 2013. The average room rate was also lower compared to last year. City officials are concerned that the lower tax revenues will create a problem for balancing the books.

"If revenues continue to decline, it may be necessary to make up any additional shortfalls with expenditure reductions," the city manager explained.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

NEWS



Bi-partisan Farewell

Alexandria Registrar Tom Parkins, second from right, was given a bi-partisan send off into retirement Dec. 12 as the Alexandria Democratic Committee and the Alexandria Republican City Committee came together at Port City Brewing Company to honor Parkins' 13 years of overseeing elections in the city. The Iowa native came to Alexandria in 2000 and formally stepped down from his position Dec. 31. With Parkins are Alexandria City Electoral Board members Bruce A. Brown, vice chairman; Donald E. Ledwig, secretary and senior member, and Susan B. Kellom, chair.

PHOTO BY SHARI BOLOURI

Change Comes Slowly in Arlandria

FROM PAGE 1

❖ "Yes, it's taking a long time," said Councilman Justin Wilson, who lives on the border between Del Ray and Arlandria. "It's taking longer than we ever thought, but I think we are finally starting to see some positive movement."

❖ Back in 1998, city leaders began devising an action plan for the neighborhood when a Safeway closed. That plan was adopted in 2003, setting a vision for the place as a regional destination. Six years later, very little had been accomplished. So council members directed resources to implementing the plan's recommendations. To underscore that effort, elected officials created an advisory group to seal the deal. Now, more than a decade after the action plan was approved, many neighborhood residents are still waiting for action.

Promises Unfulfilled

❖ Replacement of two wooden benches. City officials say the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services currently has no funding for the project, which is estimated to be between \$6,000 to \$12,000.

❖ Installation of new HVAC system, roof, cistern, light tubes and a roll-up window at Four Mile Run Park Community Building. Project is not funded.

❖ Public art will be included with private redevelopment projects and considered as part of the Public Art Master Plan. City officials say this effort has not yet started.

❖ Improvements to the intersection of Mount Vernon Avenue and West Glebe Road have been put on hold pending

redevelopment of adjacent privately owned parcels. Meanwhile, funding for the project has been reallocated to Four Mile Run Park.

❖ Improvements to the left-turn signal at Mount Vernon Avenue and South Glebe Road have been put on hold because city officials have determined the project is "infeasible" because Arlington County is unable to make proposed improvements.

❖ Elimination of free-flow right turn onto Russell Road has been put on hold. City officials say no funding is available.

❖ Construction of raised crosswalks has been put on hold. City officials say no funding is available.

❖ Construction of a new public access road along the eastern edge of Mount Vernon Village Center bordering Four

❖ "The most frustrating part is that the impetus of the plan was to try to make it more a more walkable, less auto-oriented neighborhood," said Kevin Beekman, a member of the advisory group. "And that's thing that's the hardest to do without redevelopment."

❖ **BACK IN 2011**, members of the Alexandria City Council approved a proposal to demolish a 1940s-era strip mall and construct two six-story buildings with 500 rental units and 53,000 square feet of retail space. Opponents of the plan worried that the proposal would gentrify the neighborhood, pushing low-income residents further into the suburbs. But supporters said this kind of large-scale redevelopment was exactly what the neighborhood needed to revitalize.

SEE CHANGE, PAGE 7

Mile Run Park with a cul-de-sac into Four Mile Run. The project was put on hold after redevelopment of Mount Vernon Village Center was approved.

❖ The Alexandria Economic Development Partnership is expected to relocate businesses within Arlandria and recruit others to the community. City officials say the goal of filling gaps in the market is not complete.

❖ The Alexandria Economic Development Partnership is expected to conduct a merchandizing audit with neighborhood businesses. City officials say the audit has not yet started.

❖ The Alexandria Economic Development Partnership is expected to establish a business plan monitoring system. City officials say the project has not yet started.

Estate Sale To Aid Typhoon's Victims

A group of Alexandria children and their local Filipino-American friends have found a way to assist those who lost homes and property in last year's Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. On Saturday, Jan. 18 at The Potomack Company in Old Town Alexandria from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the youngsters will supervise a tagged estate sale of antiques, used furniture, paintings, decorative arts, books and other items from Potomack's warehouse donated by the auction house's consignors and staff. All proceeds from the sale will be given directly to the American Red Cross to support the victims of the typhoon.

On Nov. 8, 2013, Typhoon Haiyan roared across the Philippines. Thousands were killed, many more injured and hundreds of thousands lost their homes. Today, many remains homeless, liv-

ing in tent camps with limited food, water and clothing and lacking basic medical care.

Elizabeth Wainstein, owner of The Potomack Company, said that she and her colleagues are grateful for the opportunity to play a part in this cause: "It's a privilege to be part of such a worthy effort. We're honored to work with our Filipino neighbors who are supporting relief efforts for their loved ones in the Philippines and with the Alexandria teenagers who have stepped up to join that effort. We're also grateful to our many clients who have generously donated their property to this cause. We look forward to holding a great sale and to helping the American Red Cross in its effort to save lives in the Philippines."

The estate sale will take place at The Potomack Company's Old Town Alexandria gallery, located at 1120 North Fairfax Street.



PHOTO BY THE POTOMACK COMPANY

Alexandria children and their Filipino-American friends work together to organize Potomack Company's estate sale fundraiser on Jan. 18, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 1120 North Fairfax Street in Old Town Alexandria to benefit victims of Typhoon Haiyan.

King's Jewelry is remodeling the store!

Final Days thru Saturday
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*Discount does not apply to Rolex watches, Swiss Army watches, Repairs and our already competitively priced diamond engagement rings. Discounts apply to in-stock merchandise only; not on special orders or previous sales.

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10 am to 4 pm

Tagged Estate Sale with 100% of the proceeds for the American Red Cross to aid victims of the Philippine typhoon.

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 703-684-4550
 info@potomackcompany.com

From Adventures in Sailing to Writing

Stephen Ryan authors "The Madonna Files."

BY ISABEL AMEND
GAZETTE PACKET

Stephen Ryan insisted on Landini Brothers on King Street to discuss his new book "The Madonna Files." Starbucks seemed fine, but the author reiterated how important the Old Town restaurant was: "My book opens up at that restaurant and five years ago I promised myself I would someday sit down in that place as a published author — and today is that day."

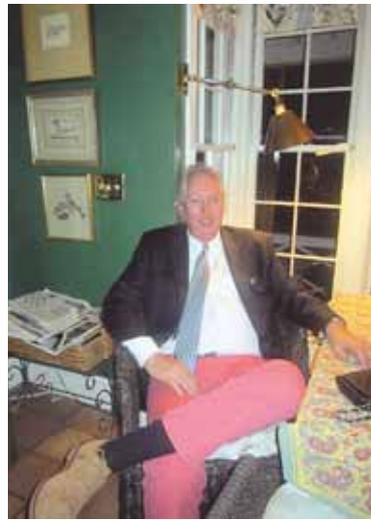
The city of Alexandria has a strong hold on the newly minted author's soul. But like most people who grow up in the same town it was not always that way.

"I had lived in Alexandria pretty much my entire life — MacArthur Elementary School, Bishop Ireton High School and so by the time I finished college at George Washington University I was ready get away, explore the world." Right after college, Ryan found a ride across the Atlantic on a 40-foot sailboat. He traveled from Annapolis to Bermuda, then to the Azores and on to Portugal. The adventure rekindled his interest in writing.

While pursuing a bachelor's degree in economics at George Washington University and living in Alexandria, Ryan thought writing might be his true calling. He worked hard to write a short story for an English class and was shocked when his teacher read it aloud: "I met with her afterward and she said, 'Steve, your voice is unique and appealing — you ought to think about doing more of this.'" As an economics major, he was focused on making money, not writing. "Looking back, I should have asked her more about why she liked it, but I never believed it would lead to anything" Ryan said.

Although Ryan may not have been focused on a potential writing career as he set sail for Europe, he was determined to explore the world of Ernest Hemingway, one of his favorite literary heroes. "I wanted to be like Hemingway," he said. "I bought a motorcycle in Europe. I went to bull fights and drank with the locals."

Ryan, however, encountered some troubles along the way. One day he looked in his wallet and



Author Stephen Ryan

saw \$10 and a one-way plane ticket back to Alexandria. So Ryan reluctantly put down his backpack and picked up a brief case upon returning to Old Town. Marriage arrived followed by children and a career as a financial advisor. When the stock market crashed in 2008, Ryan reconsidered his life path. "What have I done with my life?" he asked himself. To fill the void, Ryan launched a faith-based blog, which quickly received en-

couragement from other writers. "I started out like every other blogger, and when more people started coming to the site, I began to write more. As I began entering deeper discussions on the website, the idea of a book came into focus."

And the adventure streak never fully went away.

Sailing had always been a part of Ryan's life, his father had owned sailboats for years, and so when his brother Paul invited him to race to Newport, R.I., from Annapolis he quickly agreed to go. Ryan has competed in more than 10 ocean races and well as dozens of other sailboat races, yet the idea of writing a novel remained quietly in the back of his mind. "It wasn't until the strange world of visions of the Virgin Mary collided with my sailing pursuits did the idea for the book come fully into focus," he said.

Ryan discovered fascinating little known facts about the Virgin Mary that inspired him to write his book. For example, few people know that Ernest Hemingway gave away his Nobel Prize medallion to

a shrine of the Virgin Mary in Cuba. Moreover, even fewer people are aware that Mark Twain spent 12 years writing a book about the visions of Joan of Arc. Then there exists the mysterious world of Marian apparitions. "I looked into Fatima and the miracle of the sun, and became very interested in the baffling world of Marian apparitions," Ryan said.

It started as an interest of his, but then it started to take a hold of him. He combined his interest in supernatural mysteries of the Catholic Church with his love for sailing and travel. Thus Ryan fulfilled his long-dormant desire by penning a contemporary religious thriller that reads "like a cross between Indiana Jones and a Dan Brown mystery."

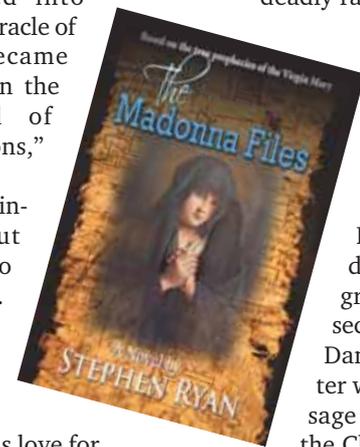
"The Madonna Files" is, for the most part, set in the near future, but the story begins with a myste-

rious event that takes place in Rwanda just as the genocide begins to rip that country apart. From there, the story moves to the cobbled stoned streets of Alexandria where Father Daniel Baronowski finds himself in a

deadly race to locate a letter stolen from the Pope's apartment. The letter contains an apocalyptic message. From Rome to Washington D.C., from Alexandria, to Annapolis, to grand cathedrals and secret hideouts, Father Dan must find the letter with the secret message before enemies of the Church find it first.

Ryan's debut novel, published by Whiskey Creek Press, challenges the prevailing orthodoxies of American history and Christianity, and the presence of the Virgin Mary throughout the ages.

Ryan is a member of the International Thriller Writers.



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LIVING LEGENDS

Legacy of Service Embraces Legal, Medical Communities

Gregory “Gregg” Murphy focused and grounded.

BY JANE COLLINS

“Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.” Living Legend Gregory L. Murphy is so inspired by this quote that he keeps a copy of it in his wallet.

A lawyer by profession, Murphy was raised in Lake Barcroft but has resided in Alexandria since 1972. He lives with his wife Monica (a professional landscape designer) and raised his daughter Connelly, 36 (now married and a psychologist in San Francisco, with grandsons Parker, 4, and Riley, 1), son Colin, 30 (a project manager in Silicon Valley, while wife Emily is in her residency at Stanford Hospital), step-son Adrian, 32 (married and working in textiles in Mauritius, with wife Delphine and granddaughter Penelope), step-daughter Gabriella, 26 (working in the fashion industry in NYC), and still at home their youngest daughter, Ana, 12 (student at GW).

Murphy attended the former Ascension Academy in Alexandria and later graduated from Stanford University in 1969 and the University of Virginia Law School in 1972. He then valued two prestigious clerking opportunities with the Hon. Albert V. Bryan, Jr., on the U. S. District Court in Alexandria, followed by another with the father, Judge Bryan, Sr., on the U.S. Court of Appeals. Both positions were incredibly meaningful for Murphy, and it was his great honor to later give the eulogy before the 4th Circuit for the elder Bryan and then promote the shepherding of a bill through Congress and orchestrate the dedication of our federal courthouse, naming it after Judge Bryan. Later, he spearheaded the effort to keep the Federal courthouse in Alexandria.

Murphy started his own law firm, Murphy, McGettigan & West, in Alexandria in 1974, then merged his practice in 1999 with Vorys, LLP, where he is now a partner.

MURPHY’S SERVICE LEGACY combines the legal and medical communities. His relationship with Alexandria Hospital began when he was a child following his father, the late Dr. Christopher Murphy, on his rounds. In 1982, a year after his father died, Murphy was asked to serve on the hospital’s Professional Service Committee. He quickly became its chair and ultimately that of the hospital’s board from 1992-1995. Murphy took the unprecedented step of offering the



Perhaps Gregg Murphy’s greatest contribution to Alexandria was his role in leading the merger of Alexandria Hospital into the INOVA Healthcare System.

medical staff a permanent board position, where his initiative paid off as it facilitated information cross-flow by forging productive working relationships amongst the board, physicians and administration.

During his board tenure, healthcare delivery management underwent a nationwide reform. To understand and stay abreast of the evolving healthcare trends, Murphy took groups of the hospital’s physician leaders, board members and administrative officers to visit the nation’s top healthcare systems to learn from their best practices, hear their opinions of healthcare direction and discover how these top hospitals adapted to changing healthcare trends.

Murphy’s leadership led to better financial accountability and stability, improved quality assurance measures throughout the hospital, and a near-perfect satisfaction rating of the board from the hospital’s doctors. In 1996, he received the Julia Johns Award of Distinction, the hospital’s highest honor.

Living Legends: The Project

Living Legends of Alexandria is an ongoing 501(c)(3) photo-documentary project to identify, honor and chronicle the people making current history in Alexandria.

The project was conceived in 2006 to create an enduring artistic record of the people whose vision and dedication make a positive, tangible difference to the quality of life in Alexandria.

Platinum and Gold sponsors this year are the

Alexandria Commission for the Arts, Alexandria Toyota, Club Managers Association of America and Goodwin House, Inc.

This is one of a series of profiles that will appear this year.

For information, to volunteer, become a sponsor or nominate a future Legend, visit www.AlexandriaLegends.com or contact Legends@AlexandriaLegends.com.

ally reported suit against Governor Gilmore for interfering with a person’s right-to-die decision. What he learned from this work, Murphy said, was “how much in need we are as a society for people to help others who have no refuge and require outside support to help them break them from that cycle [of abuse].”

MURPHY HAS ALSO served on the board of Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) for six years and is its current board chair. Under his leadership, according to Executive Director Mary Lee Anderson, SSA created a Friendly Visitor’s Program partnering volunteers with homebound seniors for weekly visits and launched the new “Senior Living in Alexandria” cable television show. Murphy and his daughter Ana also volunteer with food delivery in SSA’s Meals on Wheels program.

In 2008 Murphy was invited to be among the elite group of the nation’s lawyers recognized as Fellows of the American Bar Foundation, an honor bestowed upon less than one percent of the nation’s lawyers. Subsequently he participated in a three-week Rule of Law conference in China with 30 of his peers meeting lawyers, judges and government officials to discuss improvements to its legal systems. He was also selected as a Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America and to the Virginia Bar Foundation, reserved for two percent of the state’s lawyers, while also being recognized as a “Super Lawyer” in business litigation and given a pre-eminent professional legal rating.

Even Murphy’s family time is service-focused. Three years ago Murphy returned to his love of coaching youth basketball at MacArthur Elementary School, as he did for Connelly, Colin and Gaby several decades earlier. Now, 25 years later, he relishes coaching Ana and her teammates. Murphy looks to other inspiring quotes to keep him motivated, focused and grounded. When all else fails, he humorously refers to the one that reads “Charity covers a multitude of sins.”

“... how much in need we are as a society for people to help others who have no refuge and require outside support to help them break them from that cycle [of abuse].”
— Gregory L. Murphy

PHOTO BY STEVEN HALPERSON

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday by noon. Photos welcome.

TAX HELP

AARP Tax-Aide, the nation's largest free tax preparation and tax counseling volunteer program starts its free Tax Preparation Services Feb. 1. The program, sponsored by the IRS, is staffed with Certified IRS Tax Counselors and use IRS computers and software to prepare and eFile tax returns for low to middle income families and elderly citizens. Please bring Government-issued picture IDs, and social security cards for all persons that will be included in your tax return. Also bring a printed copy of last year's tax return, if you itemized. Located at Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St., Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Walk-ins welcome. Visit www.aarp.org/taxaide for additional information.

Winter Programs

Guide Now Available. The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities' 2014 Winter Program Guide is now available. Individuals who did not receive the program guide can download a free copy at alexandriava.gov/recreation. To sign up for a free subscription visit alexandriava.gov/recreation or call 703-746-4343.

THURSDAY/JAN. 16

Order Deadline. The Mount Vernon Evening Lions will be selling honeybells, oranges and grapefruit. Delivery date is Jan. 25. Contact Andrea Corsillo at 703-960-4973 for information. All proceeds will be used for community and Lions projects.

Work Group. 6-8 p.m., The Enrollment Forecasts/Demographics Subcommittee of the Long-Range Educational Facilities Plan Work Group will meet in Room 2000, City Hall, 301 King St. The City and Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) are jointly developing a Long-Range Educational Facilities Plan to improve facilities planning, accommodate the growing student population, and enhance educational programs and services (www.alexandriava.gov/68540). Free.

Open House. 10-11:30 a.m. at Fairlington Preschool, 3900 King St. Learn about the Community Partnership Classes. Free.

FRIDAY/JAN. 17

Family Fun Night. 6-8 p.m. at Chinquapin Park Recreation Center & Aquatics Facility, 3210 King St. Enjoy water activities, playing on the racquetball courts and more. \$4/resident; \$8/nonresident. Contact Ralph Baird at 703-746-5435 or email ralph.baird@alexandriava.gov.

OBITUARIES

Thomas "Tommy" Y. Johnson, Sr.

Thomas Y. Johnson, 88, of Alexandria, died on Jan. 13, 2014 at Woodbine Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Mr. Johnson is preceded in death by his siblings; Reba Evans, Susie Blue, Estelle "Tillie" Butler, Morris "Brother" Johnson, and Matthew "Neil" Johnson. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Dorothy "Wanda" Johnson; his son, Thomas Y. "Jay" Johnson, Jr.; and 9 nieces and nephews.

Mr. Johnson was a former volunteer at Alexandria Volunteer Fire Department, a member of the Potomac Truck and Engine

City Council Legislative Subcommittee. 5 p.m. City Hall, Council Work Room, 301 King St.

THROUGH JAN. 17

Christmas Tree Recycling. Residents who receive City refuse collection may place Christmas trees at the curb for recycling on regular trash collection days, through Friday, Jan. 17. Remove any stands, lights, and decorations from trees. Collected trees are recycled into pine mulch. For more information: alexandriava.gov/SolidWaste.

MONDAY/JAN. 20

City Offices Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Public Records Advisory Commission. 7:30 p.m. Archives and Records Center, 801 S. Payne St. Contact Jackie Cohan, 703-746-4402.

TUESDAY/JAN. 21

Joint Waterfront & Parks and Recreation Commission. 7:30 a.m. The Lyceum Museum, 201 S. Washington St. Contact Jack Browand, jack.browand@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-5504.

Business Development Roundtable. Noon-1 p.m. at the Alexandria Small Business Development Center, 625 N. Washington Street, Suite 400. "Tune Up Your Branding for the New Year." No registration is required for this event. Free. Visit www.alexandriasbdc.org or call 703-778-1292.

Waterfront Community Meeting. 6:30 p.m. at the George Washington Middle School Cafeteria, 1005 Mt. Vernon Ave. Contact Richard Lawrence, richard.lawrence@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-3849.

SATURDAY/FEB. 22

Nomination Deadline. The Alexandria Historical Society and the Office of Historic Alexandria invite members of the community to nominate one or more people to receive the T. Michael Miller Alexandria History Award. The award is presented to those who have made exceptional contributions to the awareness, understanding and appreciation of local history including the preservation of the historic, cultural and artistic heritage of Alexandria. Contact Audrey P. Davis, Co-Chair History Awards Committee at 703-746-4706 or to audrey.davis@alexandriava.gov for guidelines and address to send the nominations.

Foster Parent Orientation. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Prospective foster parents can get questions answered and learn the requirements to foster and adopt. Free. RSVP, e-mail christine.levine@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-5858.

Company #2, and a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge #38.

The family will receive friends from 2 to 4 p.m., and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17, at Cunningham Turch Funeral Home, 811 Cameron St. Alexandria. A Life Celebration Service will be held at the funeral home on Saturday, Jan. 18, at 10:30 a.m., followed by interment at Ivy Hill Cemetery, Alexandria.



and five grandchildren.

A service will be held at Fort Myer Post Chapel on Jan. 23, at 3 p.m., followed by interment at Arlington National Cemetery and a reception at the Ft. Myer's Officers' Club.

The arrangements are under the direction of Cunningham Turch Funeral Home, Alexandria.

Change Comes Slowly in Arlandria

FROM PAGE 5

"I hear a lot of comments this evening about diversity," said Hume Springs resident Jacob Cuomo during the public hearing. "I challenge anyone to ride down Mount Vernon Avenue and see diversity of races."

The sluggish economy stalled financing for the redevelopment at Mount Vernon Village Center, but now city leaders say the developer has secured financing and that the project is moving forward. Because many of the changes envisioned by the plan are financed in part by developer contributions, city leaders welcome the redevelopment as a potential catalyst to future redevelopment. Critics worry about the changing face of the neighborhood.

"The Arlandria plan is essentially a set of giveaways to developers," said John Liss, executive director of Tenants and Workers United. "The city consistently gives away height and other concessions to developers, and it always has to be done right now because it's urgent — even though the developer in this case obviously nobody bought in on it."

ARLANDRIA HAS a reputation as being one of the city's more dangerous neighborhoods, and police records indicate the neighborhood has its share of

incidents. The Alexandria Police Department refuses to release incident reports, but a summary of documents officials decline to share with the public include dozens of arrests in the last month — everything from assaults and robberies to liquor-law violations and people taken in for being drunk in public.

"The main issue in Arlandria is drunk in public issues — arrests for people who are drunk in public, arrests for possession of narcotics," said Crystal Nosal, spokeswoman for the police. "We don't want people who are intoxicated to become victims of crime because somebody may see them as an easy victim."

The issue of affordable housing looms over the debate over Arlandria, one of the last bastions of market-rate housing in the city. Critics say redeveloping the neighborhood will push out low-income residents and transform the city into another wealthy enclave inside the Beltway. But supporters of the city's efforts point to efforts such as Jackson Crossing, approved last January, which will have 78 dedicated affordable housing units. Neighbors say it's time for the action plan to have less talk and more action.

"The reason the advisory group was created is that everyone kind of acknowledged the progress had kind of stalled," said Beekman. "A lot of it hinges on re-development, so I'm hopeful."

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OPINION

From Late Night Comedy to Your Bedroom

Why the General Assembly matters more in Virginia than most states.

The Virginia General Assembly began its annual session last week on Jan. 8.

The actions of the Virginia General Assembly matter more to localities than it would in many other states. In Virginia, localities have only the power specifically granted by the General Assembly, the Dillon rule.

So, for example, Montgomery County and Prince Georges County in Maryland recently voted to increase the minimum wage in those localities. They didn't need permission from Maryland General Assembly to do so. Arlington and Alexandria might be inclined to follow suit (the District government also voted to increase the minimum wage) but do not have that power.

The General Assembly limits how localities can raise revenue, what kinds of traffic regulations they can implement, whether they can control where guns are allowed, whether school districts can begin classes before Labor Day, and much more.

Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria sent their members of the Northern Virginia delegation of state senators, all Democrats, and delegates, overwhelmingly Democrats (13-5), to Richmond, where the House of Delegates is overwhelmingly Republican and control of the Senate is still up in the air pending special elections.

Del. Ken Plum (D-36) filed HB536 which would "increase the minimum wage from its current federally mandated level of \$7.25 per hour to \$8.25 per hour effective July 1, 2014, and to \$9.25 per hour effective July 1, 2015, unless a higher minimum wage is required by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act." It isn't

likely to see the light of day.

Anyone can watch the Virginia House of Delegates or Senate on streaming video when either is in session, and the Virginia General Assembly proved last year that it can be worthy of national attention for entertainment. It is in fact well worth tuning in once or twice or more.

EDITORIAL

Visit <http://virginiageneralassembly.gov/> and click on "members and session," and see the "quick links" section for video links.

Legislators will consider literally thousands of bills between now and March 8.

Some quite random examples of proposed legislation from local delegates and senators:

❖ Del. Dave Albo (R-42): Driving while intoxicated; refusal of blood or breath tests. This bill would allow a person who has been arrested for driving while intoxicated and who has refused to submit to a blood or breath test be given another opportunity to consent to testing after the arresting officer has advised the person of the consequences of his refusal.

❖ Del. Scott Surovell (D-44) has propose the repeal of last year's hybrid tax, plus a bill that would place a cap on the compensation that may be paid to a special counsel appointed to handle certain legal matters where it would be improper or uneconomical for the Attorney General, or the Attorney General is unable, to handle such matters. That cap would be the same as allowed for a court appointed attorney, a very small amount.

❖ Del. Patrick Hope (D-47) proposes to prohibit firearms on the floor of the House of Delegates. Another bill would require public institutions of higher learning in Virginia to provide a dedicated page on its website to infor-

See for Yourself

Visit <http://virginiageneralassembly.gov/> and click on "members and session," and see the "quick links" section for live video links, information on who your legislators are and how to track bills. Every resident is represented by one state delegate and one state senator; look up your and email to be placed on their mailing lists. Consider attending their local meetings.

mation on mental health resources available to students.

❖ Del. Rob Krupicka (D-45) proposes that an unexpired Virginia driver's license remains valid for purposes of voter identification at the polls notwithstanding the fact that it has been suspended or revoked under certain circumstances. Another bill would clarify that vehicles must stop to allow pedestrians to cross highways at marked crosswalks.

❖ Del. Alfonso Lopez (D-49) proposes a Virginia version of the Dream Act, allowing in-state tuition for students who came to the U.S. as children without documentation when certain conditions are met.

❖ Del. Mark Sickles (D-43) proposes to create the Virginia Health Benefit Exchange, which will be established and operated by a new division within the State Corporation Commission.

❖ Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30) proposes the repeal of the constitutional amendment dealing with marriage that was approved by referendum at the November 2006 election.

❖ Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) would make it a Class 1 misdemeanor for the owner of a website to both post an arrest photo and solicit, request, or accept money for removing the photograph.

❖ Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) proposes to require drivers and passengers to wait for a reasonable opportunity to open vehicle doors on the side adjacent to moving traffic, an effort to prevent the "dooring" of bicyclists.

LETTERS

City Keeps Overreaching

To the Editor:

I am writing to my hometown newspaper because I see a tremendous overreach by the City of Alexandria government. There is the threat of taking the Old Dominion Boat Club parking lot property by eminent domain.

There is the threat of outing bike lanes on the narrow confines of the King Street hill. This would take away residents' parking spaces and be a safety hazard. There is even the threat of putting lights at the T.C. Williams High School athletic facilities, which would violate a longstanding prohibition.

What I am seeing here is a city government totally out of control and bent on usurping the private property rights of established

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

Alexandria
Gazette Packet

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STEVEN C. ARTLEY

Sunday Blue Law Still Operates

BY HARRY M. COVERT



In this day and age when the Old Dominion is caught up in the matter of red or blue state, strictly for political purposes, it's doubtful many remember the times of the Blue Laws.

Not all of the Blue Laws have been wiped out from the state code.

As the current membership of the General Assembly will be considering all sorts of new and relaxed ordinances, among them legalizing marijuana use, same sex marriage, and maybe allow the governor two consecutive terms.

COVERT MATTERS

The Sunday Blue Laws of time past prevented shopping at grocery stores, shopping at malls (they hadn't been created) and obviously no beer, wine or the hard-stuff. Sundays were days of rest.

At my house we didn't have to cut any grass and could listen to the radio and later watch television or have to visit relatives. Naps were popular.

Those times began to fade in Virginia, stores opened, families could buy a quart of milk, loaf of bread and eggs. Seven-Elevens hadn't been created at this point. No

Golden Arches or Burger Kings and most gas stations were closed. City buses operated on a holiday schedule and mostly empty.

Time has come though when the Old Dominion should make a final change in the Sunday Blue Law. What law may that be?

Hunting on Sundays. You mean that's illegal? That certainly is true and hunting enthusiasts are denied their simple pleasures of shooting turkeys, deer, bear, squirrels or other prey in certified hunting areas.

Outdoorsmen and women can go fishing and boating any day they wish but hunters and huntresses can't load up on Sundays.

Seems like with all of the issues facing legislators these days, the State's Game and Inland Fisheries commission should welcome the Sunday hunter.

Constituents of those members of the General Assembly could do something good and press for the final elimination of the Sunday Blue Law preventing hunting. Virginians can carry concealed weapons every day. They can carry shotguns and other rifles in the cabs of their pickups daily but not hunt on Sunday.

Sporting venues are popular on Sunday. Hunting and fishing are considered sporting enterprises too. Bass fishing tourna-

ments are popular throughout the state's rivers and lakes but hunters are denied their fun and game.

Most people know Blue laws were enacted through powerful church lobbies many years ago. Sundays were to be days of rest.

Some pastors lessened their hard-shell approaches by scheduling early church services so members could hit the golf courses or go fishing. For quite some time back in the day, Sunday services were quite popular starting at 8 o'clock sharp and not ending at 9 dull.

So while legislators babble about this and that during this current Richmond session, time has come to allow Sunday hunting up and down the Commonwealth, whether folks are or red or blue. Hunters and newspaper "outdoor writers-editors" should be on the job, targeting the sportsmen and women sitting in the legislature.

Outdoor enthusiasts as just as sporty as those sitting in football stadia yelling and screaming and hoping.

Besides, gentle reader, the remaining Sunday Blue Law is "unconstitutional." That's according to those who continue to interpret the Virginia laws. The feds would more than likely agree, too.

Ready, aim, fire!

FROM PAGE 10

neighborhoods.

Now I see the Planning Commission is trying to eradicate the last vestiges of the "old King Street" such as used car lots and wig shops. What is wrong with used car lots and wig shops? These are established businesses serving a consumer demand. Does everything around here nowadays have to be "gentrified" to fit with what the yuppie newcomers think is "appropriate" to their effete tastes? What are ordinary working-class people supposed to do, stay away from downtown?

I thought these yuppies were supposedly liberal and open-minded. In reality they are elitist snobs and hypocrites.

And I have fond memories from over 40 years ago of some of the old business establishments on upper king Street, such as the Reed Theater at 1723 King St. and the City Sport Shop at 1510-12 King St.

As a 53-year-old lifelong Alexandrian with family roots in the city that go back to the early 1920s, I strongly deplore this misguided mentality that professes to be "progressive" but lacks common sense. Our neighborhoods and our private property rights must be protected.

Gregory G. Paspatis
Alexandria

MORE LETTERS, PAGE 12

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Ethics and Medicaid Expansion Tops Agenda

CHARNIELE HERRING
STATE DELEGATE (D-46)



The annual legislative session has started once again in Richmond. I am thankful to the people of the 46th District for once again electing me to represent them in the Virginia House of Delegates. This year we have a new Governor, Lt. Governor, and Attorney General. With their leadership, we have a renewed commitment to return the discussion in Richmond to important issues like jobs, the economy, education, and transportation.

People will hear about many issues facing Virginians this year, but two of the marquee issues that will be debated in the Vir-

ginia General Assembly are ethics reform and the expansion of Medicaid.

Ethics scandals are an uncommon occurrence in the Commonwealth. Over the past year, as more and more information has come to light regarding abuses of our system by our former Governor, it has become critical that real ethics reform be enacted for our statewide leaders and for our state legislators.

Governor McAuliffe has already enacted stringent policies for his tenure in the executive branch — both limiting gifts and increasing transparency. In the legislature we are working across the aisle to enact bipartisan reforms. The first version of this legislative package was announced last

week, and as it is debated and refined, new laws will be put into place that will take strong steps toward the reform we need.

Every year we bear the cost of the uninsured in Virginia — both directly in costs at our hospitals and clinics and in the health of our workforce. Governor McAuliffe is proposing we join 25 other states and expand Medicare using our own federal tax dollars to allow as many as 400,000 Virginians to access health coverage. This is a move that will not only strengthen the health of many, but will strengthen our economy.

The General Assembly has already recommended reforms that are already making our Medicaid system more cost efficient and responsive to patients; however, if we fail to exercise the option to expand Medic-

aid, it is reported that we will forgo \$2.1 billion annually in federal funding over the next three years. Our money will go to other states. Action is still forthcoming, but this will be a topic of heated discussion.

The winter legislative session in Virginia lasts a very short 60-days this year, and there are many important and heated topics that will come to the forefront. I will continue to fight for the values my district has elected me to champion here in Richmond. We must continue to move Virginia forward.

Charniele Herring (D-46) represents Alexandria City in the Virginia General Assembly and serves as the House Minority Whip. For more information, visit www.charnieleherring.com or on twitter @c_herring.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Remembering Robert E. Lee

To the Editor:

If the President asked you to take charge of a war on people you both considered fellow citizens, would you accept? That was what Lincoln wanted Lee to do.

Facts: Before Lee made his decision not to accept command of the Union forces, Lincoln and his Congressional partisans had betrayed the Constitution's protections of the people's and states' rights. (Punishing tariffs against the South mostly funding the national government and internal improvements heavily concentrated in the North — with access to Western markets.) Secession was legal in 1861. (Lincoln had said so in 1847; so had John Quincy Adams in 1845, and the Hartford, CT Convention

in 1814, etc.) Lee resigned his U.S. Army commission after 36 years of exemplary service and changed his citizenship, an age-old accepted practice, joining the Confederacy to defend his native state (country) and other states — although he opposed secession and slavery. He had already freed his few inherited slaves and was in the process of freeing the Custis slaves according to GWP Custis' will. Lee was so widely admired by his Northern contemporaries after the War that Northern families sent their sons to the college where he was president to benefit from his influence. The N.Y. Life Insurance Co. offered him \$10,000 for the use of his name — no work was required. The impoverished Lee, sole supporter of his invalid wife and three daughters, declined, saying if his name were so valuable, he'd keep it.

Lee was more honorable in war, defeat

and peace than his opponents in victory and its aftermath, and their proponents and revisionist historians have never forgiven him for it. To deify Lincoln's reputation, they have tried to demonize Lee — but the facts are otherwise.

Americans do not honor traitors. Heroes are buried at Arlington. Jackie wanted JFK there. Congress was right to honor this American hero who did so much after the War to promote unity among the states — despite the onerous burdens of Reconstruction on the South and the failure of the U.S. government to restore Lee's citizenship as he requested. Arlington House, built to honor George Washington, today honors RE Lee, although it was his wife's inheritance and he did not own the property.

Ellen Latane Tabb
Alexandria

What About Working Together?

To the Editor:

Now although I do have a roof over my head by sharing a house through the good graces of a friend, I would like to move out on my own. However, in Alexandria, there does not seem to be anything that I can afford. Now in a meeting for the city's committee on affordable housing, I told of my situation and was informed that they were well aware of this being the case with quite a number of residents. Since then I have come to notice that this is not just a problem in Alexandria but more towards a national scale.

Well, you might be thinking if you want better housing, you need to get a better job. Now of course, if I had a job that paid more this would make my housing search much easier. Well, not to be trite, but this is easier said than done. Now there might be housing that is less expensive, however, this seems to be further away in another municipality with not good public transportation. The unemployment rate does not seem to be in my favor either. This all makes me wonder if the various agencies of our government such as Housing and Urban Development, Labor, transportation, Commerce, etc. even bother to speak with each other.

Another point I would like to add here is from a report on CNN recently that now 50 percent of everyone in our nation's Congress is a millionaire. With Rep. Darrell Issa a Republican from California having the greatest net worth. The next top 10 are Democrats with Sen. Mark Warner showing the most, representing us right here in Virginia. Well, if they have this much money then why cannot they do something themselves to help with our problems of housing and unemployment? Some might answer that they are so concerned about getting re-elected; well now it seems to me that anyone with that much money should be

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 13

From a Mentor's Perspective: Amy Betor

BY AMY BETOR



In the comfort of an air conditioned conference room one sweltering July afternoon a partnership was born, a team was made, and a friendship founded.

Forged on the shared interests of good food, great books, and cats, my mentee and I have carved out a unique friendship in the months since our first meeting. Along the way, the themes of Respect, Integrity, Self-Esteem, and Encouragement, the same principles of the City of Falls Church's RISE Mentoring Program, continue to emerge in our experiences and conversations.

Together my mentee and I have sought out new learning experiences — trying our hand at yoga, or learning about voting and civic engagement in the commu-

nity we both live in. We've volunteered with a local animal rescue, and made blankets for homeless pets. Our boundaries have been challenged and expanded both in the literal sense, as we venture into D.C. for a taste of city life and a bit of history, and figuratively, as we've gotten to know one another better.

When I sat across the conference table from the girl that was to become my mentee all those months ago, I imagined the impact I hoped to have on her. What I didn't stop to think about was the effect she would have on me.

This experience has allowed me to grow; it has made me pause to consider my own decisions and the motivation behind them. It has changed the way I interact with others, and has allowed me to reflect on my own adolescence and examine the journey



I took to become the person I am today.

Most importantly though, it has given me something to look forward to each Tuesday afternoon, and that is quality time with a wonderful young lady.

The Alexandria Mentoring Partnership (AMP) was created in 2006 to ensure that quality mentors and mentor programs are available for Alexandria's youth and young adults in need. There are 11 professionally managed programs in the partnership that need adult mentors. Join AMP on Tuesday, Jan. 28 from 6-8 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., for an information session (rsvp to mentoring@alexandriava.gov). To learn more about AMP, visit: <http://www.alexandriava.gov/Mentoring>

General Assembly Off to a Busy Start

BY ADAM EBBIN
STATE SENATOR



On Jan. 8, the General Assembly began its 2014 legislative session with many of the traditions established over our nearly 400-year history. All 100 members of the House of Delegates were sworn in and a new senator from Chesapeake elected in a special election joined us. That night, Gov. Bob McDonnell delivered his final State of the Commonwealth address. He recounted his accomplishments and apologized for failing to disclose improperly accepted gifts and loans from a prominent business executive.

In less than a week more than 2,000 pieces of legislation have been introduced for consideration during our 60-day legislative session. Thus far I have introduced 17 bills. They deal with topics ranging from establishing a more taxpayer-friendly refund process, citizenship initiatives and asbestos worker safety to measures to fight human trafficking, discrimination and legal fraud.

One major bill I've submitted deals with ethics reform and disclosure laws to improve public confidence in state government. My legislation would provide greater

transparency on previously undisclosed transactions between lobbyists and the families of public officials. An online database would provide for greater public access to financial disclosure reports from lawmakers and lobbyists. Additional provisions will be added as the bill advances.

Senate Bill 1 is my effort to repeal the recently-enacted hybrid vehicle tax. I spoke out against this on the Senate floor last year and, along with Del. Scott Surovell of Mount Vernon, launched an online petition which garnered more than 7,300 signatures opposing this irrational tax. After we presented our petition to Governor McDonnell, he amended the original \$100 fee to \$64. However, it is still unreasonable because it arbitrarily taxes hybrid technology — even in those cases where some hybrids get poorer fuel economy than some gasoline-only engines. It also discourages the purchase of environmentally-friendly cars.

This past Saturday, I had the honor of attending Terry McAuliffe's inauguration as Virginia's 72nd governor. Governor McAuliffe campaigned on a platform of creating jobs and diversifying our economy, and I know he will work tirelessly to promote Virginia as a great place to do busi-

ness and raise a family. My former Senate colleagues Ralph Northam and Mark Her-ring were also sworn in as Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General, and I am confident they too will work to move Virginia in the right direction.

If you're in Richmond between now and March 8, please stop by my office and see me. You can also email me at district30@senate.virginia.gov or call 804-698-7530 with your thoughts on legislation or state-related matters. I am active on Facebook and Twitter (@AdamEbbin) and more information is available at www.adamebbin.com, where I encourage you to sign up for my weekly email updates.

Please join me at Town Hall Meetings this winter:

♦ Mt. Vernon: Jan. 25, 11-12:30 at Mount Vernon Government Center (2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria) with Del. Scott Surovell and Sen. Toddy Puller.

♦ Lee District: Feb. 1, 10-12, Kingstowne Village Center (6090 Kingstowne Village Parkway, Alexandria) with Del. Mark Sickles, Sen. George Barker and Sen. Toddy Puller.

♦ Alexandria/Arlington: Feb. 15, 10-12, exact location to be determined. With Del. Rob Krupicka.

It is an honor to represent the citizens of the 30th Senate District.

FROM PAGE 12

set for life and not have to worry about a public office to pay his bills. Another excuse is that it is not the money that these politicians crave but the power. Well, congressional members in both the House and the Senate were elected to serve the people, and since they do have power, they should put it to some good use and help the people they were elected to serve.

Jerry Foley
Alexandria

Fairness Matters, City Planners

To the Editor:

Grownups and children can accept punishment or negative outcomes if and only if they feel they've been treated fairly. Ask any employee — if they are treated fairly at work, they feel good about their boss.

So, when I began to feel angry and upset after almost every major planning decision, I questioned the root cause. It came to me that our planning process is the most unfair process in this city — it is wrought with stacked decks and managed by city employees and appointed commission members who could care less about residents and are primarily fulfilling the mantra of the city

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

"I've made a lot of good friends since moving to the Hermitage."
—John Mutchler

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 13

manager and his budget team who want more and more revenue to underwrite the mammoth spending initiatives they continue to hatch year in and year out.

Let's take a look at the city staff for starters. Many of the senior staff members don't live in Alexandria, the Planning Commission has the majority of its members in "protected" areas of the city and some have commercial interests. The new Waterfront Commission is composed primarily of those who have commercial interests; even some of the "citizen" representatives have connections to real estate.

This imbalance lends itself to bias in favor of revenue-enhancing and doesn't give the residents a fair chance to get development that respects the scale of Old Town, the openness asked for on the waterfront and enhances rather than distracts from the historic ambience. These so-called planning folks haven't seen an SUP with increased density that they aren't in love with. And what do we get: inferior design, bulk, more brick and cement and absolutely no buildings that enhance the uniqueness of Alexandria but rather create canyon after canyon of poorly designed, cookie-cutter buildings.

Drive on Mt. Vernon Avenue in Arlandria, which keeps getting shortchanged, losing their affordable housing to ugly buildings that hug the road, blocking sunshine. Drive down North Henry and again you will see

this very unattractive block after block of tall, overwhelming buildings.

Now these planners are intent on giving us the same thing on the waterfront. This is simply egregious and the people who attack those of us who want an attractive, open, welcoming redeveloped waterfront rather than monster buildings are being disingenuous. The Carr development will set the stage — now all the resulting developers can point to all the giveaways of this development as a standard for them.

Of course this planning staff is biased to development ... that's what they've been hired or appointed to do so. We need city staff who live here and who will be affected by outcomes, not by a planning director who lives in Maryland, a TE&S director who lives in Mt. Vernon, a city engineer who doesn't live anywhere near the waterfront, and a major city planner who lives in Falls Church.

This is just not fair and making me angry. Government is supposed to balance the normal tension between the wants and needs of the residents and the development community. Alexandria has stacked its decks so that residents' concerns are not taken seriously. Well, it certainly shows in what Alexandria is becoming. Someone once said one should never call someone's baby ugly, however, Alexandria planners, your baby is fast becoming very ugly.

Linda Couture
Alexandria

Let Free Market Decide

To the Editor:

Planning Commission Chair John Komoroske joked about getting rid of "those wig shops" on King Street while he and his fellow commissioners take aim at the two used car lots on King that remain a "vestige of a time almost forgotten," reports the Gazette (Jan. 9-15, 2014, p.3). Some joke. Not everyone is smiling, I expect. Real people, running small businesses for decades and paying their taxes, but being out of fashion in our liberal, diversity-embracing city. Diversity is fine, it seems, for this commission as long as it's a diversity of cupcake and coffee shops or high-end accessory stores. It is simply the arrogance of power that makes these commissioners, or more specifically, Mr. Komoroske, feel free to make fun of hard-working people running businesses he does not happen to frequent or that do not appear chic.

I suppose it never occurred to these commissioners to just leave these benign small businesses alone and let the free market decide if they are in the right location, instead of bullying them into extinction with smiles on their faces. Diversity here in Alexandria, it seems, only goes so far. We embrace a diversity of trend-setters; everyone else, out you go.

Jeffrey Salmon
Alexandria

Catering to The One Percent?

To the Editor:

Ninety-nine percent of Alexandria's residents use cars and buses to go to and from work, to purchase groceries, clothing, go to church, their favorite restaurant, etc. At the same time, most of the main arteries to and from the city, such as Duke Street, King Street, Braddock Road, Route 1 and Washington Street suffer gridlock during rush hours and at other times are crowded with vehicles, whether cars, trucks or buses.

Why do our city fathers want to reduce road lanes to make it more difficult for over 99 percent of the city's residents who depend on cars and buses? Why, particularly, when we know that residential and commercial development continues and there will be more people and more cars to squeeze onto these same roads?

I find it incomprehensible that the city is talking about expanding bike lanes. Why isn't it talking about expanding car lanes to ease congestion? Why is its priority one percent of the population?

Linda Greenberg
Alexandria

MORE LETTERS, PAGE 15

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Special thanks to **Alexandria Gazette Packet**

Lights, Camera, Action – ‘Senior Living in Alexandria’

BY MARY LEE ANDERSON,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Looking for something new on TV? Check out “Senior Living in Alexandria, a new 30-minute cable television show in Alexandria geared towards seniors. It’s the next step in Senior Services of Alexandria’s efforts to get useful information out to seniors and their loved ones. Each month, the program features interviews with representatives of local government agencies and non-profits who work on senior programs in the City and highlights from SSA’s monthly Senior Speaker Series. It also has special segments such as healthy cooking demonstrations with Chef Hans from Inova Alexandria Hospital and fitness tips from Dr. Dan Kulund, who is the creator of the Commission on Aging’s Robust Walking Program.

The program is sponsored by Synergy Home Care, which has made it possible for seniors to expand their world within the comfort of their own home. Synergy’s president, Mitch Opalski, is a frequent panelist in the Senior Speaker Series and knows firsthand how important it is for seniors and their families to learn about the many services available to them as residents of Alexandria.

We hope seniors will find this information useful and presented in a light, sometimes humorous manner. You can watch “Senior Living in Alexandria” every Sunday at 2 p.m. on Comcast Cable Channel 70 in Alexandria. You can also find the show on Senior Services of Alexandria’s Youtube page, or via our website at www.seniorservicesalex.org. We hope you tune in and let us know what you think.

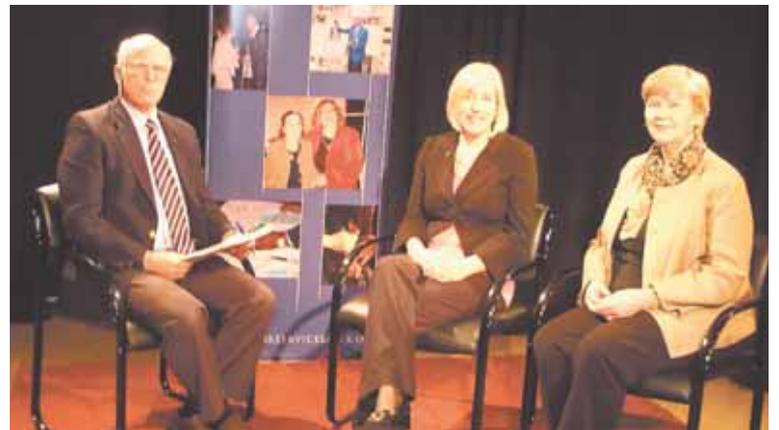


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Senior Living of Alexandria host Jim Roberts, guest Cele Garrett, executive director of At Home in Alexandria, and SSA Executive Director Mary Lee Anderson.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Triggering Urban Blight

To the Editor:

A friend returning from Toronto told me about the effect of rapid condo infill development in the heart of that city. In effect it has dwarfed older, livable, and often historic buildings. This is not uncommon and is recognized as an early indicator of potential urban blight. My friend is a practicing architect.

Given the trajectory of approvals for a massive hotel to anchor and guide development of the waterfront. The effect of laying this island of suburban vision at the foot of a neighborhood of 18th century houses could be the start of something big — creeping urban blight. With the impending buildout of similarly large scale properties — something indicated in the city’s model — the blocking effect that will follow in the wake of the first building’s footprint could seal the Historic District’s fate.

If the complex of development that replaces Robinson Terminal South is composed of residential and retail properties, it is reasonable to believe that these will be built to harmonize with the Carr hotel. For all the anguished statements about “getting it right” with the first approved building, density and mass has prevailed up to this point. With the city’s newly re-languaged “density bonus” (formerly known as amenities) as a bargaining tool, little reason to believe that City Council will mitigate this by scaling back the hotel size by 10 rooms, as Steward Dunn proposed. The “density bonus” will benefit almost everyone but the residents of the historic district. It will cut costs for the city in a one-time, short-term, and short-sighted grab.

This is how urban blight begins, especially in neighborhoods with historic or older homes, which by definition are more expensive for their owners to maintain. The Historic District in Alexandria is already an expensive place to live. Windows, roofs, masonry, drain pipes and anything in view from the street must be to strict standards.

These are not found at Home Depot’s discount prices.

As home values decline as a result of poorly designed and implemented new developments, the cost of maintaining a historic home simply becomes prohibitive and the willingness of new buyers to purchase falls off. This was and remains the greatest fear of those home owners who signed the petition to stop the up-zoning of the waterfront. Many of them have spent considerable time and money complying with the building standards of a historic district. And all of them do it because they have chosen to live in a historic property in an exceptional, authentic and irreplaceable neighborhood.

The city’s relentless and at times ruthless drive to install what constitutes an island effect of hotels, condos and retail shops abutting blocks of historic, expensive properties could easily set the stage for decline. It is a well-documented urban development outcome. Without Old Town home owners’ willingness to make costly repairs and renovations, because it’s financial good sense ... blight can begin.

Let’s insist the city’s financial planners and Carr make an immediate assessment of their property portfolios’ long-term needs. This has never been made public and could set the scale of the island of development. Ten hotel rooms does not trigger enough “density bonus” to ever pay for the long-term impact of making this bad opening move. It’s a loser.

Kathryn Papp
Alexandria

Jim Moran: The Real Deal

To the Editor:

Jim Moran’s announced departure from Congress at the end of his term this year bought to mind a memory from 32 years ago. In 1982, I was introduced to Jim, who was just completing his first term on City Council and looking for some help at get-

ting better known in the West End of Alexandria. At the time I was a volunteer for the Democrats at Temple Beth El Precinct. Jim had not done well there in his first run for office.

After talking to him for a while, we agreed on some appearances west of Quaker Lane including a Saturday morning of campaigning in the parking lot of the grocery store in the Kenmore Shopping Center. Jim arrived on time and we began introducing him to shoppers as they entered and exited the store, putting on a Moran bumper sticker if people agreed.

All at once an elderly woman carrying two heavy bags of groceries appeared. Jim stopped her and asked how far she had to carry them. When it transpired that she was on foot and lived several blocks away, the

future Congressman immediately took the parcels from her and accompanied her home with them. I was left without a candidate to promote. Having worked with less caring politicians in the past, my immediate thought was: “This guy is the real deal.” Jim returned after a half hour to tell me what a lovely lady she was and how much he had enjoyed their conversation. I am sure he got her vote.

For me, that day he earned a respect that has carried down these 33 years for his service as councilman, mayor and congressman. Jim Moran has proved day after day in public service that he is, indeed, The Real Deal. He will be sorely missed.

Jack Sullivan
Alexandria



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Second Anniversary Party

Children and their parents line up for face painter Erica Exline on Saturday, Jan. 4, as Local Motion Studio celebrated its second anniversary with a party at its location at 2377 South Dove St., Alexandria. The studio offers pilates dance and yoga for adults and children and features on-site childcare See www.localmotionstudio.com.



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9009 Captains Row
\$665,000
Great Opportunity!
 Stately columned residence in prime location on prestigious Captains Row at exceptionally competitive price! Large 5BR, 3BA home with many significant updated items. Special features: updated kitchen with stainless appliances, granite counters, custom trim detail, stained hardwood floors, master with updated bath, 2 fireplaces, gas heat & hot water. Oversize 2 car garage and custom 2 level deck. Priced to sell! **OPEN SUN 1/19, 1-4! GW Pky South; R-Stratford Ln; L-Captains Row.**



8412 Washington Ave
\$425,000
**True One Story -
 No Stairs!**
 Expanded Rambler on level lot in prime Mt. Vernon location. All major rooms including bedrooms on one level. Extensive major updates include: thermal windows, kitchen, baths, furnace, electric panel, siding, gutters-in short almost everything! Large back covered deck. One level living in "move-in" condition at remarkable price! **OPEN SUN 1/19, 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate; R-Old Mt Vernon Rd; L-Woodley Dr; R-Washington Ave.**



8520 Highland Lane
\$479,000
**New Home at
 Unprecedented Price!**
 Must see to believe! Priced \$220+K below the next lowest priced new SFH in FFX Co. Brand new home by leading custom builder intended for family member but circumstances changed. Result-unique opportunity to acquire top quality new SFH for less than townhouse or used home. Dramatic open interior, luxury kitchen and baths, screen porch, two car garage, stone and stucco exterior. Unique opportunity! **OPEN SUN 1/19, 1-4! Rte 1 S; R-Highland Ln.**



4325 Adrienne Dr
\$598,950
Southwood Gem!
 Gorgeous home and grounds, fabulous 4BR Colonial in pristine condition with many major updates including expanded gourmet kitchen w/custom cabinetry, silstone counters, stainless appliances and large breakfast area. Other features: hwdw floors, family room with fireplace, thermal windows and two car garage. Beautiful grounds with brick walk, stone patio & magnificent landscaping. Nothing like it for under \$600,000!



4808 S. 28th St. Arlington
\$498,950
**One of Fairlington's
 Largest Homes!**
 Rare Dominion II end unit. 3 finished levels. Prime location on quiet cul-de-sac. Many upgrades include kitchen with granite, stainless and custom cabinets. Other features: hwdw flrs, thermal windows and attic storage. Fenced rear yard with two level patio. Backs to open land. Walk to pool, tennis courts and playground. One of a kind opportunity!



9305 Allwood Ct
\$519,500
**Stunning Value-
 Huge Potential!**
 Spacious home with two car garage on quiet cu-de-sac in prime Mt Vernon location! Features include 3 finished levels, open floor plan with soaring cathedral ceilings, hwdw flrs, updated kitchen and large bedrooms. Check the comps-nothing provides the combination of house and lot size in this premier location for close to this price!



1938 Shiver Dr
\$625,000
Totally Updated!
 Truly stunning home in prime "close-in" location! Fab features include columned front portico, bright-open floor plan, gourmet kit with custom white cabinets, SS appli, gas cooktop, soapstone countertop & large island. Other features include "Pella" replacement windows, hardwood floors, 2 FPs, 3 full baths, & gorgeous professionally landscaped grounds. All the work has been-just move in & enjoy!

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steve.kindrick@LNF.com

***Classes begin on Saturday, January 25th and end on Saturday, February 22nd. They will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00pm - 9:30pm and on Saturdays, 9:00am - 5:00pm during the day.

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walk-out lower level and incredible storage. Home has been lovely maintained and awaits your updates. Walk to MacArthur School! Open by appointment.
Ann Z. Logsdon 703.568.8433
Emily Capelli 703.472.1282



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Alexandria
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\$ 530,000
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Debra Bell 703.350.9750



\$ 635,000
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3204 Wellington Rd \$1,750
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Heidi Kohler 703.609.7367
4235 Sonia Ct \$2,900
 Mt Zephyr Commons Detached 3BR / 3.5BA
Peter Braun 703.731.9577
3530 Goddard Way \$3,750
 Quaker Ridge Townhouse 3BR / 2.55BA
Grace Cary 703.249.9063

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ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Alexandria resident and retired military pilot James Toler has collected photos of hundreds of pieces of graffiti painted on the concrete walls of the Kandahar base in Afghanistan and will be displaying his photos this weekend at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub in Del Ray.

Tags from the Edge Photo exhibit features artwork made by soldiers and civilian contractors.

BY AMBER HEALY
GAZETTE PACKET

Under the cover of darkness, soldiers and civilian contractors are taking to the walls of the Kandahar military base in Afghanistan.

They're using spray paint and stencils, along with their sense of humor and expression, to make the beige concrete walls a little more colorful.

"This is far better than the street art you see around here," said James Toler, who walked around the base, both as a military "VIP pilot" and civilian, with his camera and captured dozens of photos of the graffiti that is filling the walls not just on the Kandahar installation, but smaller bases as well.

The artwork is better because "it's done in a stressful situation," he said. He first noticed the tags in 2011 or 2012, but during his last visit he saw that the numbers had multiplied and the theme of the work had changed.

At first it was military unit logos, a way for a unit passing through to physically mark their presence. But it has evolved, now including characters from movies, such as Will Farrell's Ron Burgundy, TV shows like *Beavis and Butthead*, sports team logos like the NHL's Detroit Red Wings, and more traditional street art fare, like scantily clad women.

"It's awesome," Toler said of the artwork.

The soldiers are there for undetermined lengths of time and it's likely they've turned to graffiti to make the base homier, in addition to letting off a little steam, he said. They can't hang pictures on the walls, so they make their own on the concrete.

Art therapy is recognized as a treatment for post-traumatic stress conditions, he added.

What's surprising is that the images are staying on

the walls and not being washed on or painted over, he said. How long that will remain true, however, is uncertain.

Toler is using his photos and the stories they tell to try and create a movement to gain support for bringing a segment or two of these walls back to the United States as a monument or memorial for the war in Afghanistan. It wouldn't cost the government anything to build, and as a pilot in the military for 29 years — he was told his retirement was being delayed after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks — he believes it would be possible to ship a wall out on some of the larger cargo jets, which sometimes fly "in and out" without any cargo.

"Those jets carry tanks and big pieces of equipment," he said. "A piece of cement is nothing."

What he needs to make that happen is the support of the right people in the right places, Toler said. He's been in contact with the Smithsonian and some high-ranking military officials, but so far there are no guarantees or commitments.

"It's like the Berlin wall," a portion of which is on display at the Newseum downtown, he said. The tags in Kandahar are a physical, real-time documentary of life in that space, and a reflection of the men and women working, living and fighting there.

Also like the wall that divided Berlin for decades, the artwork appears at night, and the risk of getting caught with a spray can of paint in hand is very real.

Ideally, he'd like to see the walls, or segments thereof, on the Mall in Washington, "maybe at a big end of the war party with the USO band playing."

Toler said he doesn't know the names of any of the people responsible for the artwork, but he'd like to eventually track some of them down and write a book. For now, he's got the photographs.



Details

Alexandria resident and retired military pilot James Toler will be displaying his collection of photographs showing the graffiti painted on the walls of the Kandahar military base at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria, from 2-4 p.m. this Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 18 and 19. He'll also be selling a limited number of self-published books featuring his entire collection, the funds from which will be used to create more books. More photos are available online, at <http://cargocollective.com/jtoler> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aG2qdBaQsOo>.



CALENDAR

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos and artwork are encouraged. Deadline is Thursday at noon.

ONGOING

Solo Artist Preview Exhibit. Runs Jan. 9-23 at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, on the waterfront in Old Town Alexandria at 105 N. Union St. Call 703-683-1780 or visit www.theartleague.org. The Art League's Solo Artist Preview Exhibit premieres one piece by each of the

nine solo artists on the 2014 exhibition calendar, which include photographers, collage artists, sculptors, and painters. A panel of outside jurors select the solo exhibits at The Art League in a process that happens two years in advance.

Theater Performance. Aldersgate Church Community Theater presents Disney's "Beauty and the Beast, Jr." The show runs Jan. 17-26. \$10-\$12. Visit acconline.org.

Art Exhibit. See "No Room For Doubt," abstract works on wood, canvas and paper by Kristen Hayes through Jan. 26 at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St.

Free. Visit nvfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

Art Exhibit. Artist John Gascot of Studio 4, 218 N. Lee St., suite 101, creates an art exhibit to honor the life journeys of transgender individuals. It will be on display through January. Gallery hours are Thursday-Saturday, noon-7 p.m. and Sunday from noon-5 p.m. or by appointment. Visit www.studio4oldtown.com for more.

Art Exhibit. See "Primary Colors" art exhibit from Jan. 3-Feb. 2 at The Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Artists use the three primary

colors without mixing them. Free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for more.

Theater Performance. See "The Ballad of the Red Knight" by Red Knight Productions at Port City Playhouse, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. Runs Jan. 24 through Feb. 8. Performances are Friday at 8 p.m. and Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. For tickets visit www.portcityplayhouse.org.

Art Exhibit. The results of the latest art challenge issued by Artistic Artifacts, "Mixed Media Metallics," will be exhibited Jan. 18-Feb. 8. Many of the

entries are included in a silent auction benefitting Food for Others. On display at Artistic Artifacts, 4750 Eisenhower Ave. Admission is one non-perishable food item, which will be donated to Food for Others. Visit www.ArtisticArtifacts.com/metallics for more.

Art Exhibit. See a solo photographic exhibit "Darkness Visible" by Timothy Hyde at Multiple Exposures Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Runs Jan. 7 through Feb. 16. Hyde's photography examines the mysteries hidden in the shadows. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for

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more.

Theater Performance. Arts on the Horizon presents "Under the Canopy," a 20-minute interactive, nonverbal show for children up to age 4. Performances are Feb. 12-14, 16, 17, 19-21, 23 at 10:30 a.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. \$5/person. Visit www.artsonthehorizon.org for tickets. They can be purchased at the door.

Celebrate Black History Month. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Feb. 1-28 at Mount Vernon Estate. In observance of Black History Month, George Washington's Mount Vernon highlights the lives and contributions of the slaves who built and operated the plantation home of George and Martha Washington. A wreathlaying and presentation occurs daily at the slave memorial site throughout the month of February. Black History Month activities are included in admission: adults, \$18; senior citizens, \$17; children age 6-11, when accompanied by an adult, \$9; and children under age 5, free. Visit www.mountvernon.org or 703-780-2000.

Art Exhibit. See "Reincarnations" art exhibit at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Features art from salvaged items, art from encyclopedias and more. Free. Runs Feb. 7 through March 2. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org for more.

Art Exhibit. See "Frances Gallardo: Meteorology" Jan. 18 through March 2 at the Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/target for more.

Art Exhibit. See "Songs of the Shore," archival inkjet prints by Chantilly resident Peter Toth in the Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery, of the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Runs Feb. 7 through March 16. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/gallery.html for more.

Theater Performance. See "Ella Fitzgerald: First Lady of Song" at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St., from Jan. 23-March 16. Performances are Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets may be ordered by calling 1-800-494-8497 or online at boxofficetickets.com. For group sales and information call the theatre at 703-548-9044. Visit www.metrostage.org for more.

Occupied City: Life in Civil War Alexandria Exhibition. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., through Sunday, March 23. This exhibit traces life in Alexandria following Virginia's decision to secede from the Union in May 1861. The Lyceum is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Suggested admission is \$2. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org or call 703-746-4994.

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Metro Club After-School Program. From Sept. 9-June 2014, the Metropolitan School of Arts presents an after-school program for grades 1-6. The program is located at both the Lorton studio at Workhouse Arts Center, 9517 Workhouse Way and in Alexandria at 5775 Barclay Drive. Programs will focus on the arts, including music, dance, theatre, yoga and academics, as well as designated homework time. The program will run Mondays, 1-6 p.m., and Tuesday-Friday, 3-6 p.m. Tuition runs from \$130-150. Call 703-339-0444 or visit www.metropolitanarts.org.

Life Drawing. Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions

Boys & Girls Club Awards Dinner and Auction

The Annual Dinner will be held at the Carlyle Club in Alexandria Saturday Jan. 25, 7 p.m. The event recognizes community leaders who have made contributions to the youth of the Dunbar Alexandria-Olympic Boys & Girls Club. Through the awards, their achievements and dedication to enduring opportunities for success are celebrated. Former Redskins Joe Theismann will be in attendance as honorary chair. The Dunbar Alexandria-Olympic Boys & Girls Club has been serving youth in the city of Alexandria for more than 77 years. All proceeds from the dinner and silent auction go directly to providing positive after-school and summer experiences for area boys and girls. Tickets are \$100 each and the evening will include dinner, dancing, and an open bar. In addition, there will be a selection of silent auction items to bid on. Business attire. Contact cmérica@bgcgw.org or 703-549-3077 or www.2014bgcdinner.eventbrite.com



Joe Theismann

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

for anyone to develop life-drawing skills further. Just drop-in for the session and bring your supplies to draw or paint our live models. Fee ranges from \$8-\$12. All skill levels are welcome. Del Ray Artisans is located at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for a schedule.

Photography Workshop. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Multiple Exposures Gallery on 105 N. Union Street.

Photographers and enthusiasts of all skill levels are invited to share work, ideas, and questions at this free workshop held on the last Sunday of each month, except December. No reservations. Call 703-683-2205.

Intro to Machine Sewing for Children. Saturday, Jan. 18 from 10 a.m.-noon at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Learn the basics of a sewing machine and beginning sewing skills. \$35. Visit <http://www.artatthecenter.org/registration.htm> to register.

Quilting for Children. A six-week machine quilting class on Saturdays, Jan. 25-March 1 at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. \$180. Kits are available for purchase. For children ages 8 and up. Visit <http://www.artatthecenter.org/registration.htm> to register.

Winter Sewing Classes. A six-week introduction to machine sewing on Thursday, Jan. 23-March 6 or Saturdays, Jan. 25-March 1 at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. \$200. For children ages 8 and up. Visit <http://www.artatthecenter.org/registration.htm> to register.

FRIDAY/JAN. 17

Swing Dance. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Dance to live music. \$4/person. 703-765-4573.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Jackson Edwards (of the WeatherVanes) will open for Junior Brown. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500 for tickets.

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, 3606 Seminary Road. The Singers' Theatre of Washington presents "Ariadne auf Naxos." \$20/general; \$15/senior and student. Buy tickets at www.singerstheatre.com or at the door.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JAN. 17-26

Alexandria Restaurant Week. A prix-fixe three-course dinner or

dinner for two will be offered at 50 Alexandria restaurants throughout the city. Visit www.visitalexandriava.com or 703-746-3301.

SATURDAY/JAN. 18

Dance Performance. 2 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Jane Franklin Dance performs "Mouse of Amherst," adapted from the book "Mouse in House" by Elizabeth Spire. \$15/adult; \$10/child. Visit www.janefranklin.com or 703-933-1111.

Reception. 3-8 p.m. meet some of the artists of "Mixed Media Metallics." Many of the entries are included in a silent auction benefitting Food for Others. On display at Artistic Artifacts, 4750 Eisenhower Ave. Admission is one non-perishable food, which will be donated to Food for Others. Visit www.ArtisticArtifacts.com/metallics for more.

Opening Reception. 6-9 p.m. artist John Gascot of Studio 4, 218 N. Lee St., suite 101, creates an art exhibit to honor the life journeys of transgender individuals. It will be on display the whole month of January. Gallery hours are Thursday-Saturday, noon-7 p.m. and Sunday from noon-5 p.m. or by appointment. Visit www.studio4oldtown.com for more.

Dance Performance. 7 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Jane Franklin Dance performs "The Trickster," a multidisciplinary work in collaboration with percussionist Tom Teasley. \$20/person. Visit www.janefranklin.com or 703-933-1111. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

Performance. 7:30 p.m. at The George Washington Masonic Memorial Theatre, 101 Callahan Drive. Watch Greek dancing by Dynami and a performance of "Dyskolos." Presented by Ambassador Theater. Tickets are \$15-\$30. Visit www.aticc.org/home/box-office for tickets.

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, 3606 Seminary Road. The Singers' Theatre of Washington presents "Ariadne auf Naxos." \$20/general; \$15/senior and student. Buy tickets at www.singerstheatre.com or at the door.

SUNDAY/JAN. 19

Celebrate Community 5k & 1K Fun

Run/Walk. 9 a.m. at 2021 Eisenhower Ave., near the U.S. Patent Office. Benefits ALIVE! Bring a non-perishable food item. Families and strollers welcome. \$25/5K before Jan. 16; \$35/race day. \$15/1K before Jan. 16; \$20/race day. Visit www.prracing.racebox.com or 703-998-6460.

"From Board Game to Book."

Noon-4 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans gallery at the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Stacy Rausch teaches participants to create a one-of-a-kind art book using a board game as the cover with traditional book-binding methods and materials. The fee (all supplies included) is just \$48 for Del Ray Artisans members, \$53 for non-members. Register at www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

Winter Warmer Tea. 3-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern, 138 N. Royal St. Eat period-inspired delicacies while enjoying tea and American Heritage Chocolate. A historic guest will be visiting. \$35/person and is all inclusive. Reservations required, shop.alexandriava.gov or 703-746-4242.

Performance. 5 p.m. at The George Washington Masonic Memorial Theatre, 101 Callahan Drive. Watch Greek dancing by Dynami and a performance of "Dyskolos." Presented by Ambassador Theater. Tickets are \$15-\$30. Visit www.aticc.org/home/box-office for tickets.

Music Performance. 7 p.m. at Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St. Focus Music presents folk singer-songwriters Joe Crookston with Tiffany Thompson. \$18/door; \$15/advance or member. 703-380-3151.

Music Performance. 2 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 N. Beauregard St. The Capitol Symphonic Youth Orchestras will perform. Visit www.tcsyo.org for more.

MONDAY/JAN. 20

Theatre Production. 12:30 p.m. at Agudas Achim, 2908 Valley Drive. See "The Meeting," which depicts what might have happened had Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr. met before they were assassinated. \$10/adult; \$5/student. Visit 703-998-6460.

Talk. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Michael Mark Ludlow will discuss "19th Century Conspicuous Consumption: Artistic Examples of Alexandria's Unique Cast Iron

Downspouts." Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

Give Together. Families with school-age children can volunteer together at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road. Register at www.volunteerfairfax.org.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Poster Exhibition and Program. 1-3 p.m. in the Vola Lawson Lobby of City Hall, 301 King t. Browse posters created by local students. There will also be a speaker. Free. 703-746-4706.

TUESDAY/JAN. 21

Special Tour. 1:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate. Take a special tour of the new Fred W. Smith National Library for the study of George Washington. Included in admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org or 703-780-2000.

Jewelry information Session. 12:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Bring a piece of jewelry and get information on it, such as how old it is, how to restore and repair it. Free. 703-765-4573.

Chamber Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Pendleton Hall, Episcopal High School, 3900 W. Braddock Road.

The National Chamber Players with guest artist Nurit Bar-Josef perform Paganini's Duet for violin and bassoon, Igor Frolov's Divertimento for two violins and piano, and Mozart's Quintet in A Major for clarinet and strings. Free, no tickets required. Call 703-933-4135 or visit www.episcopalhighschool.org/arts for more.

Birthday Celebration. Jackson 20 is holding specials, including a lobster boil, in honor of the restaurant's 6th birthday. Located at 480 King St. For reservations 703-842-2790.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 22

Art Talk. 10:30 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Joan Hart presents "Monet, the Supreme Impressionist: An Overview of the Works of Monet's Artistic Career." Free. 703-765-4573.

FRIDAY/JAN. 24

Theater Performance. 7 p.m. at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. See "Peter Pan and Wendy," recommended for all ages. \$10/person at wphspeterpan.brownpapertickets.com or at the door.

SATURDAY/JAN. 25

A Royal Feline Adoption Event. 1 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Cats that have been cared for by King Street Cat volunteers will be looking for their forever home. Visit <http://kingstreetcats.org> for more.

Dance Performance. 2 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Jane Franklin Dance performs "Penelope's Pesky Pen," inspired by a children's book by Frank Dormer. \$10-\$15/person. Visit www.janefranklin.com or 703-933-1111.

Theater Performance. 2 p.m. or 7 p.m. at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. See "Peter Pan and Wendy," recommended for all ages. \$10/person at wphspeterpan.brownpapertickets.com or at the door.

Dance Performance. 7 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Jane Franklin Dance performs "The Trickster," a multidisciplinary work in collaboration with percussionist Tom Teasley. \$20/person. Visit www.janefranklin.com or 703-933-1111. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

Annual Dinner. 7 p.m. at Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St. The Dunbar Alexandria-Olympic Boys & Girls Club will recognize community leaders. Former Redskin Joe Theismann will be in attendance as honorary chair. \$100/person and includes dinner, dancing and silent auction. All proceeds benefit the club. Visit www.2014bgcdinner.eventbrite.com or 703-549-3077.

Lecture and Bourbon Tasting. 7 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden, 614 Oronoco St. Hear about Revolutionary War hero and governor of Virginia, Gen. Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee and his son Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. A tasting of bourbons will be available after the lecture. \$7/lecture; \$15/tasting or \$20/both. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org/ for more.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. The Manhattans featuring Gerald Alston and Blue Lovett will perform. \$45. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500 for tickets.

Civil War Ball. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., and event from 8-11 p.m. in Gadsby's Tavern Ballroom, 138 N. Royal St. Features dancing, live music, desserts. Period attire or after-five wear. Reservations recommended. Visit shop.alexandriava.gov or 703-746-4242 for tickets.

SUNDAY/JAN. 26

Dance Performance. 2 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Jane Franklin Dance performs "Penelope's Pesky Pen," inspired by a children's book by Frank Dormer. \$10-\$15/person. Visit www.janefranklin.com or 703-933-1111.

Theater Performance. 2 p.m. at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. See "Peter Pan and Wendy," recommended for all ages. \$10/person at wphspeterpan.brownpapertickets.com or at the door.

Winter Warmer Tea. 3-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern, 138 N. Royal St. Eat period-inspired delicacies while enjoying tea and American Heritage Chocolate. A historic guest will be visiting. \$35/person and is all inclusive. Reservations required, shop.alexandriava.gov or 703-746-4242.

MONDAY/JAN. 27

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Robin Zander of Cheap Trick will perform a solo concert. \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500 for tickets.

Music Performance. Alexandria's

Fuse Box will perform at Jammin' Java, 227 E. Maple Ave., Vienna. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., show at 7:30 p.m. \$10/advance; \$13/door. All ages welcome. Visit www.jamminjava.com for more.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 29

Performance. 7 p.m. at Kauffman Auditorium, 1108 Jefferson ST. The Virginia Opera will perform. Free. Reservations requested, www.vaopera.org or 1-866-OPERA.VA (866-673-7282).

FRIDAY/JAN. 31

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. The Bottle Rockets will perform with Marshall Crenshaw. \$27.50. Visit www.birchmere.com for tickets.

SATURDAY/FEB. 1

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. James McMurtry will perform. \$29.50. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

Warehouse Sale. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Browse high-end boutique merchandise during the 9th annual Old Town Boutique District Warehouse Sale. Visit www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com or [facebook.com/ALXWarehouseSale](https://www.facebook.com/ALXWarehouseSale) for more.

Special Tours and Demonstrations. 1-4 p.m. at Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary

Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St. Discover items from poison bottles to dragon's blood and find out how they were used and if they worked. There will also be demonstrations. Recommended for children in 3rd grade and older. \$6/person. Reservations recommended. Visit shop.alexandriava.gov or 703-746-3852.

Country-Western Dance Lessons.

Lessons at 6:30 p.m., dancing from 7:30-10 p.m. at Lincolnia Center, 4710 N. Chambliss St. Couples and singles can dance to music by a DJ. \$10/NVCWDA; \$12/non-member; \$5/children under 18. Visit www.nvcwda.org or 703-860-4941 for more.

TUESDAY/FEB. 4

Special Tour. 1:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate. Take a special tour of the new Fred W. Smith National Library for the study of George Washington. Included in admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org or 703-780-2000.

Discussion Series. 6-8 p.m. at Morrison House, 116 S Alfred St. Catherine Hollan on the "Growing American Silver Market" has been rescheduled from January. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/morrison/ for more.

Arts Extravaganza: An Evening of Fine and Performing Arts. 7 p.m. at West Potomac High School Springbank Arts Center, 6500 Quander Road. All ages can enjoy "Tuesday Night Live," a parody of "Saturday Night Live," browse art exhibits and create with clay, paint and more. There will also be music and competitions and more. Free.

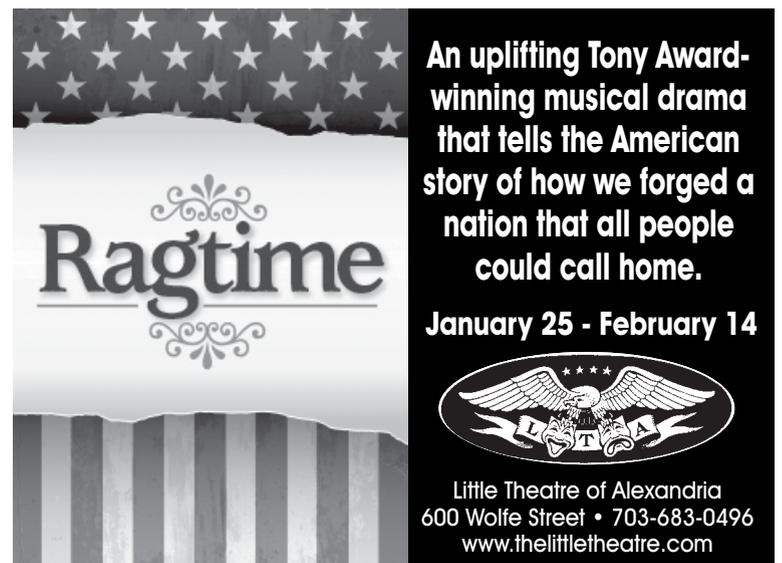


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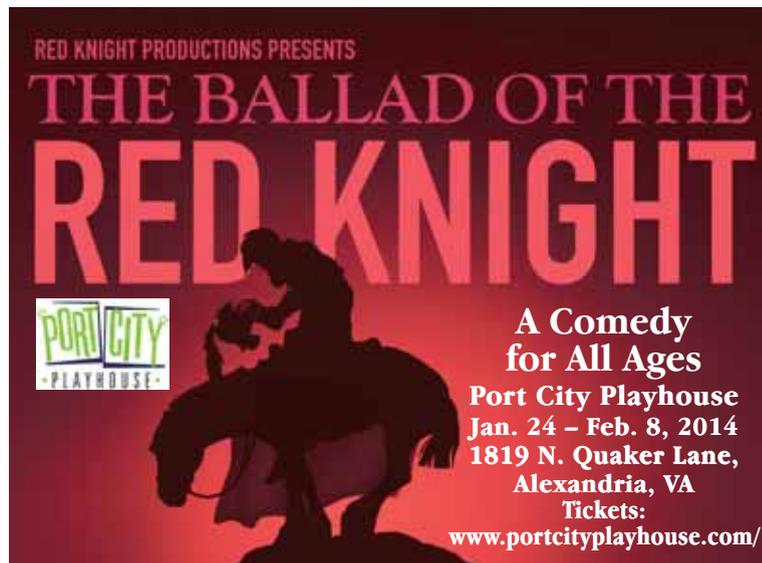
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ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY/FEB. 6

Lecture. 7-8:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. "How France Embraced and Rejected American Values." Free, donations accepted. Visit www.alexandriacaen.wordpress.com for more.

FRIDAY/FEB. 7

Opening Reception. 7-10 p.m. see "Reincarnations" art exhibit at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Features art from salvaged items, art from encyclopedias and more. Free. Runs Feb. 7 through March 2. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org for more.

Opening Reception. 7-9 p.m. meet Chantilly resident Peter Toth, artist of "Songs of the Shore," archival inkjet prints in the Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery, of the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/gallery.html for more.

SATURDAY/FEB. 8

Barnes & Noble Bookfair. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Barnes & Noble Potomac Yard, 3651 Jefferson Davis Highway. Support Jefferson-Houston PTA while enjoying student performances, book readings and crafts. Visit bn.com/bookfairs and enter ID #11271368 to support the school online.

Swordsmen's Rendezvous. Noon-4 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern, 138 N. Royal St. Enjoy a re-enactment of 18th-century swordplay, displays, discussions and more. Includes audience participation. \$6/person. Reservations required, shop.alexandriava.gov or 703-746-4242.

Closing Reception and Silent Auction. 3-8 p.m. bid on some of the entries from "Mixed Media Metallics." Proceeds benefit Food for Others. On display at Artistic Artifacts, 4750 Eisenhower Ave. Admission is one non-perishable food item, which will be donated to Food for Others. Visit www.ArtisticArtifacts.com/metallics.

SUNDAY/FEB. 9

Valentine Card-Making Party. Noon-4 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans in the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Free, but a donation for a make-and-take card is requested. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org for more.

Winter Warmer Tea. 3-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern, 138 N. Royal St. Eat period-inspired delicacies while enjoying tea and American Heritage Chocolate. A historic guest will be visiting. \$35/person and is all inclusive. Reservations required, shop.alexandriava.gov or 703-746-4242.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 12

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. Gino Vannelli will perform at Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. \$59.50. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

At the Library

Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Call 703-746-1702.
Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Call 703-746-1705.
Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Call 703-746-1704.
Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Call 703-746-1703.
Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us.

THURSDAY/JAN. 16

Mother Goose Story Time. 10 a.m. at Duncan Library. Children ages 12-24 months can enjoy stories and more. Sign up half-hour before. Free.

Story Time. 10:30 a.m. or 3 p.m. at Beatley Library. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories, activities and more. Free.

Story Time. 11 a.m. at Duncan Library. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories and more. Free.

Little One-Ders. 11:15 a.m. at Beatley Library. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy stories and more.

Story Time. 4 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library. Children ages 3 and up can enjoy games, rhymes and more. Free.

Paws to Read. 5:30 p.m. at Beatley Library. Children in grades 1-6 can read to friendly dogs. Registration required, 703-746-1702 x5.

Great Books Discussion Group. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library. Discuss a selection from "The Real Thing," a short story by Henry James. Free. Call Bill Scouton at 703-931-3559.

Knit Nite. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library. Children ages 9-18 can learn to knit. All supplies included. Free.

Pajama Party. 7 p.m. at Burke Branch Library. Children ages 3-7 can come dressed in their favorite outfit/pajamas and listen to stories. Free.

Author Talk. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library. Local mystery authors Donna Andrews, Barb Goffman, Tracy Kiely, G.M. Malliet, Sandra Parshall and Lane Stone discuss their latest novels and the craft of mystery fiction. Free.

FRIDAY/JAN. 17

Spanish Story Time. 10 a.m. at Duncan Library. Children ages 2-5 can enjoy stories and more in Spanish. Free.

SATURDAY/JAN. 18

Saturday Stories. 11 a.m. at Beatley Library. All ages can enjoy stories and songs. Free.

Squirrel Appreciation Day. 3 p.m. at Beatley Library. Children ages 7-12 can enjoy squirrel-related activities and trivia. Free.

SUNDAY/JAN. 19

Superhero Sunday. 2 p.m. at Beatley Library. Watch a movie about superheroes. Call for title.

MONDAY/JAN. 20

Baby Time. 11 a.m. at Duncan Library. Songs, fingerplays and bounces for babies up to 11 months. Free.

TUESDAY/JAN. 21

Stories and Songs. 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. at Duncan Library. Children ages 1-4 can enjoy stories and more. Sign up half-hour before. Free.

Mother Goose Time. 10:15 a.m. at Barrett Branch Library. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy games, rhymes and more. Free.

Time For 2s. 10:30 a.m. at Beatley Library. Children age 24-36 months can enjoy stories and more. Free.

Tuesday Tots. 11 a.m. at Burke Branch Library. Children ages 2-3 can enjoy stories and more. Free.

Stories to Grow On. 11 a.m. at Barrett Branch Library. Children age 2 and up can enjoy stories and more. Free.

Baby Rhyme Time. 11:30 a.m. at

Beatley Central Library. Children up to 11 months with adult. Free.

Author Talk. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library. Dr. Ida Jones will discuss and sign her book "Mary McLeod Bethune in Washington, D.C." Free.

Game Night. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library. Children ages 8-12 can play games against friends or meet new people to play against. Free.

Craft Night. 7 p.m. at Barrett Library. Learn how to knit, crochet or sew or get help with a project. Beginners welcome. Must bring own supplies. Free.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 22

Mother Goose Time. 10:15 a.m. at Barrett Branch Library. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy games, rhymes and more. Free.

Time For 2s. 10:30 a.m. at Beatley Library. Children age 24-36 months can enjoy stories and more. Free. Registration required.

Baby Rhythm & Rhyme Time. 11 a.m. at Burke Branch Library. Children ages 0-18 months can enjoy music, movement and more. Free.

Stories to Grow On. 11 a.m. at Barrett Branch Library. Children age 2 and up can enjoy stories and more. Free.

Mythbusters. 3:30 p.m. at Burke Branch Library. Children in grades 5-12 can confirm or bust urban myths with hands-on experiments. Free.

Author Talk. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library. Nathan Leslie will discuss publishing and read from his collection "Sibs." Free.

Lego Family Night. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library. Families can enjoy building together and more. Free.

Purr-fect Stories. 7 p.m. at Duncan Library. Families can enjoy stories about cats and kittens. Free.

THURSDAY/JAN. 23

Mother Goose Story Time. 10 a.m. at Duncan Library. Children ages 12-24 months can enjoy stories and more. Sign up half-hour before. Free.

Story Time. 10:30 a.m. or 3 p.m. at Beatley Library. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories, activities and more. Free.

Little One-Ders. 11:15 a.m. at Beatley Library. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy stories and more.

Story Time. 4 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library. Children ages 3 and up can enjoy games, rhymes and more. Free.

Speed Dating. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library. Find your literary soul mate. To register call 703-746-1751.

Knit Nite. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library. Children ages 9-18 can learn to knit. All supplies included. Free.

World Short Story Discussion Group. 7 p.m. at Burke Branch Library. Call Carol at 703-746-1779 for title.

Pajama Party. 7 p.m. at Burke Branch Library. Children ages 3-7 can come dressed in their favorite outfit/pajamas and listen to stories. Free.

SATURDAY/JAN. 25

Saturday Stories. 11 a.m. at Beatley Library. All ages can enjoy stories and songs. Free.

Paws to Read. 1 p.m. at Burke Library. Children in grades 1-6 can read to friendly dogs. Registration required. Call 703-746-1773 or e-mail mmcguire@alexandria.lib.va.us to register for a 15min slot.

PEOPLE

Bittersweet Gathering

Sherry Party pays tribute to founders Vola Lawson and Lois Walker.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

More than 150 women from throughout the community gathered together Dec. 15 for the 43rd annual Women's Sherry Party, an evening made bittersweet by the recent passing of two of the event's founders.

"It's hard to believe Vola and Lois are not here," said vice Mayor Allison Silberberg of Vola Lawson and Lois Walker. "I can still see Vola sitting in her usual chair and Lois checking everyone in at the door."

Held for the fifth year in a row at the home of Arthur Peabody and his wife, Lucy Thomson, the Sherry Party was started by some of Alexandria's most influential women as an alternative to the many all-male events taking place in the city at that time.

Former City Councilwoman Lois Walker, who died Oct. 14, and former City Manager Vola Lawson, were two of the original founders of the event. In the days prior to her sudden death Dec. 10, Lawson

talked of the history behind the Sherry Party.

"The Sherry Party has always been a gathering of women who contribute to make the city work," Lawson said the week prior to the event. "Whether it is through politics, social services or their churches, these women are the 'doers' of the community."

In addition to Lawson and Walker, other founders of the event were Beverly Beidler, Doris Mela, Beverly Steel and Jan Killelea. Lawson was proud to see the Sherry Party grow into one of the most popular events of the holiday season. "We wanted a way to come together to recognize and celebrate what the women of this city were doing," she said, "and I think we accomplished that."

Photos were on display of Walker and Lawson, who had both been named Living Legends of Alexandria.

"This is a great tradition," said former state Sen. Patsy Ticer. "It won't ever be the same without Vola and Lois but tonight is a wonderful tribute to them and all they did for the city."



Donna Kloch admires a photo of Vola Lawson, one of the founders of the Sherry Party.



Kathryn Brown and Sydney-Chanele Dawkins



Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg, Harlene Clayton, Janet Barnett and Marian Van Landingham.



Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg and Patsy Ticer.



Betty Jo Middleton, Resa O'Flaherty and Marcia Speck attend the traditional Women's Sherry Party Dec. 15 at the home of Arthur Peabody and Lucy Thomson. This year's party was in tribute to founders Vola Lawson and Lois Walker, who died earlier last year.



Liz Peabody assists her father Arthur Peabody in serving drinks at the Sherry Party.



Nina Tisara, Carolyn Griffin and Megan Webb.

PHOTOS BY
JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

PEOPLE NOTES

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos welcome.

Catherine M. Pennington, CPA, CGMA and **Karen E. Johnson**, CPA, CGMA, MBA are now shareholders of Renner and Com-

pany.

Pennington has more than 30 years of experience in both public accounting and industry. She has spent 21 years in public accounting performing audits, tax planning and compliance, and accounting services.

Her practice is focused on non-

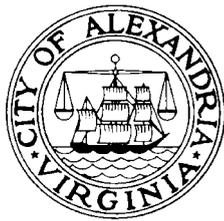
profit organizations. In addition to her public accounting experience, she has spent seven years as a non-profit controller and five years as a controller in real estate development and property management.

Johnson joined Renner and Company in 2007. She is a Certi-

fied Public Accountant, and also holds the designation of Chartered Global Management Accountant. She specializes in working with small businesses and professional firms in the areas of business tax return preparation and accounting assistance.

She is experienced in perform-

ing compilations and reviews for her small business clients, and is proficient in U.S. GAAP as well as other comprehensive bases of accounting. She provides individual tax return preparation and tax planning services for the owners of small businesses as well.



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, January 25, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain the Master Plan of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, by adopting and incorporating therein the amendment heretofore approved by the city council to the Northeast Small Area Plan chapter of such master plan as Master Plan Amendment No. 2013-0003 and no other amendments, and to repeal all provisions of the said master plan as may be inconsistent with such amendment.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Master Plan Amendment No. 2013-0003 to revise the height map from a maximum 50 feet to a maximum of 65 feet for the property known as 800 and 820 Slaters Lane approved by the City Council on December 14, 2013.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Sheet No. 044.02 of the "Official Zoning Map, Alexandria, Virginia," adopted by Section 1-300 (Official Zoning Map and District Boundaries), of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, by rezoning the property at 800 and 820 Slaters Lane to amend the proffer in accordance with the said zoning map amendment heretofore approved by city council as Rezoning No. 2013-0004.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Rezoning No. 2013-0004 to rezone the property at 800 and 820 Slaters Lane to amend the proffer on the property to allow the new development approved with DSUP 2012-0031.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 11-808 (Protest of zoning map amendment by landowners) of Section 11-800 (Zoning amendment) of Article XI (Development Approvals and Procedures) of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by city council as Text Amendment No. 2013-0003. (Implementing Ordinance for Text Amendment to update Section 11-808 approved by City Council on December 14, 2013)

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Text Amendment No. 2013-0003 to update the protest petition provision to address new technology and condominium unit ownership of land.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Subsection F (Prior Existing Buildings and Structures) of Section 8-200 (General Parking Regulations) of Article VIII (Off-Street Parking Regulations) of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by city council as Text Amendment No. 2013-0013. (Implementing Ordinance for the parking related Text Amendment approved by City Council with the Housing Master Plan on December 14, 2013.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Text Amendment No. 2013-0013 to revise the parking triggers for prior and existing buildings to exempt projects rehabilitating affordable housing.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain the Master Plan of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, by adopting and incorporating therein the amendment heretofore approved by city council to the Eisenhower East Small Area Plan chapter of such master plan as Master Plan Amendment No. 2013-0007 and no other amendments, and to repeal all provisions of

the said master plan as may be inconsistent with such amendment.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Master Plan Amendment No. 2013-0007 to revise the design guidelines to establish new requirements for brick and concrete sidewalks, which recommendation was approved by the City Council at public hearing on December 14, 2013.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain the Master Plan of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, by adopting and incorporating therein the amendment heretofore approved by city council to such master plan as Master Plan Amendment No. 2013-0005 to incorporate the Housing Master Plan into the Master Plan and no other amendments, and to repeal all provisions of the said master plan as may be inconsistent with such amendment.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Master Plan Amendment No. 2013-005 to incorporate the Housing Master Plan into the Master Plan for the City of Alexandria approved by the City Council on December 14, 2013.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 5-2-64 of Article C (Street Names) of Chapter 2 (Streets and Sidewalks) of Title 5 (Transportation and Environmental Services) and repeal Section 13-1-23 of Chapter 1 (General Offenses) of Title 13 (Miscellaneous Offenses) and repeal Section 5-2-25 of Article A (General Provisions) of Chapter 2 (Streets and Sidewalks) of Title 5 (Transportation and Environmental Services) and repeal Article B (Alexandria Transportation Safety Commission) of Chapter 8 (Parking and Traffic Regulations) of Title 5 (Transportation and Environmental Services) and repeal Chapter 9 (Rebound Tumbling Centers) of Title 9 (Licensing and Regulation) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

The proposed ordinance would eliminate the requirement that new streets in the City be named after American history figures and places or confederate military leaders. The proposed ordinance would also repeal the prohibition on lewd and lascivious cohabitation, and on boot black stands on city streets. The proposed ordinance would also repeal those City ordinances governing the Alexandria Transportation Safety Commission, a body which is no longer active. Finally, the ordinance would repeal those City ordinances regulating rebound tumbling centers.

AN ORDINANCE to adopt the VACo/VML Virginia Investment Pool Trust Fund for the purpose of investing monies belonging to or within the City's control, other than sinking funds, in certain authorized investments in accordance with Section 2.2-4501 of the Virginia Code.

This is an ordinance to adopt the VaCo/VML Virginia Investment Pool Trust Fund for the purpose of investing monies belonging to or within the City's control in certain authorized investments.

PUBLIC HEARING on the revised Civic Engagement Handbook and Implementation Plan.

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL. JACKIE M. HENDERSON, MMC, CITY CLERK



Joy to the Community

Andrew Swersky and Terri Blue of Alexandria teamed to raise over \$500, toys and food recently in Alexandria, Arlington and Woodbridge. Swersky, Falls Church real estate agent with Keller Williams and Terri Blue of Alexandria's Mane Source Hair Salon, were able to donate their collections to families and the Capital Area Food Bank. Their efforts also included cash, a Christmas tree, decorations and gifts for a Woodbridge family whose home was destroyed by fire. The business leaders donated 10 pounds of food for the food bank for every \$10 worth of toys.

PEOPLE



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Happy Birthday

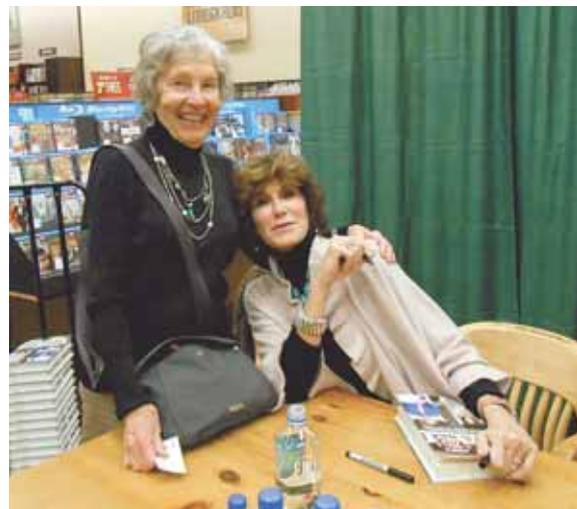
Safeway Pharmacist Eric Haas, who works at the company's temporary location at 3541 W. Braddock Road, delivers a cake and flowers to Peggy Freiband at her home as she recently celebrated her 105th birthday.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Congratulations

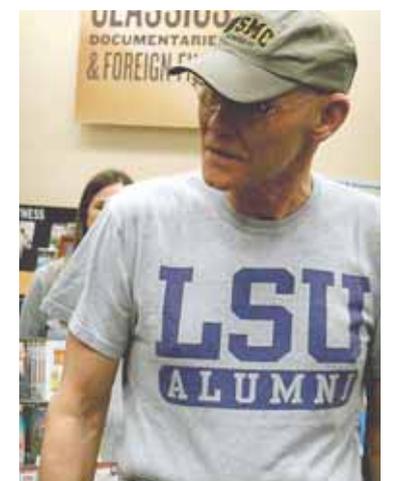
Helen Cooper and William Fowler, two Maury Elementary 4th graders, had their art selected for the Epilepsy Foundation of Virginia's 2014 Calendar. They were selected from 622 entrants from around the state. The theme of the calendar contest was "Wear a Helmet, Prevent Epilepsy." They were honored on Tuesday, Jan. 14, in Richmond, where they met Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam, Sen. Adam Ebbin, and Del. Charniele Herring (above), and toured the Capitol with their families and art teachers.



PHOTOS BY SALLY MACKLIN

Book Signing

Nancy Macklin has her book signed by Mary Matalin. Matalin and her husband James Carville were at the Barnes & Noble at 3651 Jefferson Davis Hwy. on Saturday, Jan. 11.



James Carville welcomes visitors at the book signing.

George Washington Middle School's Womens' Ensemble



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Society Honors GWMS's Choral Groups

The Alexandria Choral Society honored two choral groups from George Washington Middle School at their recent concert "Songs of the Season - The Mystery of the History." The George Washington Middle School's Winter Wonders and the Women's Ensemble, under the direction of Anne Provencher, were the winners of the 2013 Winter Carol Competition, a competition designed to encourage choral singing in schools. Both middle school groups were invited to perform a choral piece as part of the concert. The Alexandria Choral Society also presented a certificate of recognition and a \$500 award to each group.



George Washington Middle School's Winter Wonders

The Winter Wonders are Avery Johnson, Emma Lay, Marley Mainelli, Caroline Schneider,

Bridget Williams, and Demya Crews Wyatt.

The Women's Ensemble are Shayona Alford, Jessica Coleman, Claire Constant, Neha DeWakar,

Anya Faruki, Isabella Fogg, Casey Hoag, Kaley Kaumeier, Briana Little, Victoria Patacsil, Kira Pomeranz, Emilia Toledo, and Megan Ulmer.

Mane Source Celebrates Grand Opening

After nearly four months of construction and renovation, The Mane Source Hair Salon celebrated its grand opening in front of city officials, friends, and family on Sunday, Jan. 5.

Located at 101 South Whiting Street, Suite B2 (Landmark Towers) in Alexandria, owner Terri Blue and her team of hair stylists bring more than 100 years of combined professional experience to their first location.

In addition to the modern amenities, Mane Source offers standard services including haircuts, color, texturizing services, shampoos, blowouts, formal styling, conditioning treatments, weave, dread loc initiation/maintenance, braiding/weaving/extensions and make-up application services as well as a private VIP suite for ultimate privacy and relaxation



Standing from left: Fatimah Bangura, Raven Coggins, Toshia Parks, Tiyana Green and, sitting, Terri Blue and Gemeniece Cole.

during services.

Mane Source Hair salon is open Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m., Saturday from 9

a.m. until 4 p.m., and Monday by appointment only. For more information about Mane Source Hair salon, visit www.ManeSource.com.

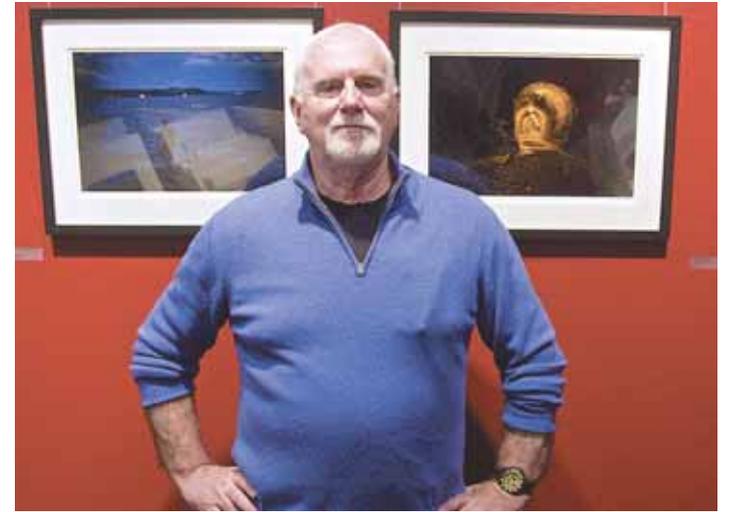


PHOTO BY RENÉE RUGGLES/GAZETTE PACKET

'Darkness Visible'

Photographer Timothy Hyde has a new exhibit, "Darkness Visible", at the Torpedo Factory, in its Multiple Exposures Gallery. Many of his photographs, including "Wilkes Street Tunnel" (right) were taken in Alexandria.



The narrative of the exhibit begins with the headlights of "Country Road."



The exhibit's narrative ends with the yellow lines of "Do Not Pass."



Photographer Timothy Hyde (left) talks to some of the guests at the opening reception on Jan. 12 for his new exhibit.

No 13th Term for Moran

FROM PAGE 1

gressman for his decades of service. Republicans and Democrats both stepped forward to praise Moran for his support for members of the military and government workers, two constituent groups that form a large percentage of the voters in the eighth congressional district. Some of the praise was bipartisan.

"Jim is more than a colleague in the House. He is a friend," said U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10). "He and I have worked side-by-side on a variety of projects and issues over the years, from getting funding for the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge to improvements on the George Washington Parkway to fighting for federal employees."

Most of the accolades came from

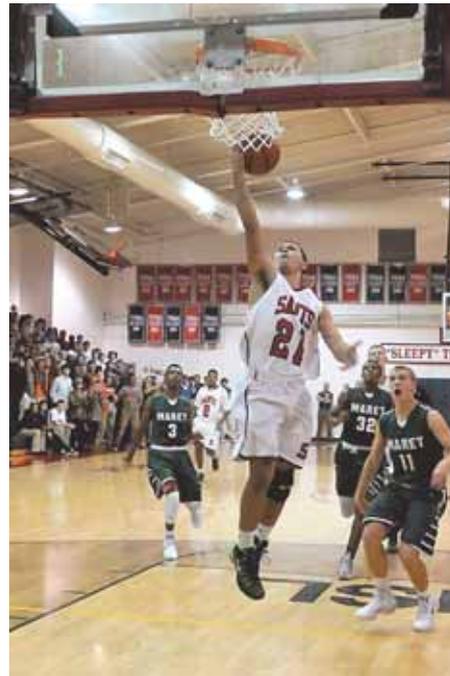
fellow Democrats, who described the congressman as an upbeat champion for universal healthcare, a passionate defender of reproductive rights for women and a fiery critic of the war in Iraq.

"For the past 35 years, Jim Moran has been a fierce advocate for the people of Northern Virginia, a responsible steward of the federal appropriations process and a voice for so many who are often left on the margins of our society," said Gov. Terry McAuliffe in a written statement. "No one has fought harder for the men and women who serve and sacrifice in the United States Armed Forces, and for the federal employees who are so important to the economy of his district and our entire commonwealth."

SPORTS



SSSAS Collin Gross rises up for a 3-pointed against Maret.



SSSAS Michael Janowski breaks away with the ball for a shot.



SSSAS Cameron Gregory goes up for a shot against Maret School.



SSSAS Travis Light adds another 2 point to the Saints score.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

58th Annual Sleepy Thompson Invitational Basketball Tournament

St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School Father's Club hosted the 58th annual Sleepy Thompson Invitational Basketball Tournament last month on the upper school campus in Alexandria. Founded in 1957 by St. Stephen's Coach Sleepy Thompson, the first tournament hosted four schools Christchurch School

from Saluda Va., Charlotte Hall from southern Maryland, Norfolk Academy from Norfolk Va. and St. Stephen's School.

Last month, eight teams came to play and included Orangeville High School from Ontario in Canada, Norfolk Collegiate School from Norfolk, National Christian Academy in Fort Washington, Md., Maret

School in Washington D.C., Riverside Baptist from Upper Marlboro Md., Saint James School in Hagerstown, Md., The John Carroll School in Bel Air, Md., and St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School.

Saint James prevailed beating Norfolk Collegiate 76-65. Riverdale Baptist beat National Christian Academy 59-52 to claim

third place; Orangeville High School won out over St. Stephen's & St. Agnes 43-40 to claim fifth and The John Carroll School topped Maret School 48-40 to come in seventh.

Pictured are scenes from the Friday evening match-up between SSSAS and Maret School. SSSAS won 61-57.

SCHOOL NOTES

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos are welcome.

Mary Joy "M.J." Pizzella of Alexandria has been elected to the Clemson University Foundation board of directors. Pizzella, a former senior business development executive for Google Inc., where she worked nearly seven years, retired in June of 2013. Prior to working for Google, she served in the Reagan, George Herbert Walker Bush and George W. Bush administrations. Her service included positions as director of public affairs and press secretary at the U.S. Department of Energy; assistant administrator for the Office of Communications and Citizen Services, U.S. General Services Administration; and aide to the ambassador at the U.S. Embassy in Paris, France. Pizzella has also held positions as vice president for communications at Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City and vice president at Burson-Marsteller. Pizzella is a third-generation graduate of Clemson. Her grandfather graduated in 1908, her father graduated in 1949 and she graduated in 1977 with a Bachelor of Arts in political science.

Pizzella is married to Patrick Pizzella; they live in Alexandria and Pinehurst, N.C.

Madhu Nagarajan, of Alexandria, recently graduated from the Savannah College of Art and Design. Nagarajan earned a Master of Arts degree in animation.

Tyler Kimbel earned a doctor of philosophy degree in counselor ed and supervision from the University of Northern Colorado.

Mauricio Salvatierra, of Alexandria, made the honors list for the Fall 2013 semester at Louisburg College.

Natalie Felice, from Alexandria, will study abroad in Costa Rica through the University of Delaware during the winter semester.

Caitlin Dougherty, of Alexandria, was recently initiated into Phi Kappa Phi. Dougherty was initiated at Auburn University.

Adam M. White, of Alexandria, has earned a Master of Education degree in educational leadership from

Alvernia University. White studied at the university's Main Campus.

Drew Longlott, of Alexandria, graduated with a bachelor of science degree in health promotion from Coastal Carolina University on Saturday, Dec. 14.

Genesis Andia, a sophomore majoring in psychology, was named to the dean's list at Bridgewater College.

Andrew Field, a high school junior at Missouri Military Academy, was named one of the first-ever Duke of York Fellows. He will participate in a student exchange program, studying abroad at MMA's sister school The Duke of York's Royal Military School in Dover, England.

Bridget B. Reilly has been awarded a scholarship by Saint Francis University for the foreign exchange study abroad program in Ambialet, France. Bridget is a graduate of Bishop Ireton High School and daughter of Pete and Crissy Reilly of Alexandria.

Regina Song, the daughter of Daisy Song of Alexandria, has been named to Randolph-Macon Academy's Dean's List for the first quarter of the 2013-14 school year. Regina is a senior at Randolph-Macon.

Eleven T.C. Williams High School students were selected by audition to participate in the District X (10) All-Star Jazz Band. The performers include sophomore **Jillian Schiele**, lead alto saxophone; senior **Brendan Kerwin**, lead tenor saxophone; senior **George Rhodes**, lead trumpet; senior **Bryson Lockett**, second trumpet; senior **Alex Aplin**, third trumpet; junior **Bobby Warden**, lead trombone; junior **Garrett Youmans**, second trombone; freshman **Akie Kadota**, piano; junior **Denny Okudinani**, guitar; junior **Duncan Foerster**, bass; and sophomore **Colby Gustafson**, bass.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

From left, bottom: Kristyn Gaines, Jordan Simonides, Avery Donahoe, Darby Philbrick, Kathy Jenkins, Parker Garrett, Sophie Davidson, Sarah Goode; top: Meghan Heck, Kathryn Cavallo, Kelly Myers, Olivia Mikkelsen, Ana Hagerup, Emily Hunt, Gussie Johns, Kristen Gaudian, Mary Claire Byrne, Olivia Cole and Sarah Aschenbach.

Lacrosse Club Plays at Disney

Kathy Jenkins, coach of the Saints from St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, is also a founder of the Capital Lacrosse Club based in the D.C. Metro area. Recently the Capital Lacrosse 2014 Seniors traveled to Disney's ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex to play in their last tournament together. All of the girls, many of whom have played to-

gether since they were in sixth grade, have been recruited to play at the next level for college programs across the country. The mission of the Capital Lacrosse Club is to promote and encourage girls' lacrosse at the high-school level in the D.C. Metro area and to assist those players who wish to play lacrosse at the collegiate-level gain recruiting visibility.

Summer Camp: Start Planning Now

Applications for many camps open in January.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

The frigid January temperatures can make summer feel like a distant fantasy of sunscreen and popsicles, but it's actually not that far away. If you have children who want to attend camp after the current school year ends, now is the time to start planning, said experts. In fact, registration for many camps begins this month.

"Spaces fill quickly so we encourage parents to register as soon as possible," said Kevin Rechen, director of the Summer at Norwood School camp in Potomac. "Popular classes and programs always fill early." Rechen added that many camps, including Norwood, offer discounts for early registration.

However, choosing the right camp is not always easy with the Washington, D.C., area's many choices, which run the gamut from traditional day camps to specialty camps, sports camps and academic programs. Your child could even attend a camp about Ernest Hemingway.

Linda Stratton of St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria, said the list of the school's summer offerings is growing. "We have some exciting new specialty camps [at SummerTimes], including Hemingway: The Importance of Being Earnest camp, Chesapeake Journey camp, an overnight camp [and] Yoga and Nutrition."

With so many options, it can be hard to choose. Linda Gulyn, Ph.D., a professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington, suggested asking, "Is there a variety of activities, opportunities for movement, structured games, arts and crafts? There needs to be time for socializing, play and rest, and I would avoid camps that are 100-percent outdoors during the summer

because of the heat."

Gulyn suggested parents make sure the camp is a good fit socially. "The opportunity to be with other kids of the same age is especially important in elementary school," she said. "A 7-year-old wants to be with other 7-year-olds, particularly of the same gender. They learn from each other, even informal things like speech habits. They learn what's cool. That's very important developmentally. Not to mention that they are developmentally similar and their motor skills, body size, balance [and] coordination tend to be similar."

In fact, you probably want to stay local to help establish long-term friendships. "Summer camp is a time for children to build friendships and for parents to establish relationships with other parents through things like carpooling," said Gulyn. "If you're going to Civil War camp in Alexandria and you live in Arlington, you probably won't be carpooling or keeping in touch with those people. In my opinion, you should stay as local as possible."

"Summer camp is a time for children to build friendships and for parents establish to relationships with other parents."

— Linda Gulyn, Ph.D.,
Marymount University

Bethesda-based psychologist Lauren Rubenstein, Psy.D., says that parents should also try to learn about the environment of the camps they are considering. "Try and figure out what the culture of the campus is," she said. "Are they focused on celebrating the individual child, creating a positive camp culture and helping kids develop their individual voices?"

In fact, Rubenstein suggested that parents



PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. STEPHEN'S & ST. AGNES SCHOOL

Students in the SummerTimes Lower School Academic Enrichment program at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School listen as a book is read. Experts say summer camps should be an experience that children will remember fondly.

think about summer 2015 and spend time observing different camps' environments. "It is great to do camp visits one summer, thinking about the next summer," said Rubenstein. "You can read all the brochures and look on the website, but the best way to know what is right for your child and your family is to spend a day there and see what goes on."

Gulyn said parents should ask how camp staff members resolve inevitable conflicts among campers. "How do they manage behavior problems like bullying? Social conflict issues like teasing and exclusion are common and normal at this age, but how does the camp manage it and are you comfortable with their approach?"

You also need to know the staff-to-child ratio because safety is important."

OF COURSE, COST is also important. "I say parents should stay within their own budgets," said Gulyn. "There are a lot of camps that sound perfect for a child and the child gets there and after three days the child doesn't want to go. A pricey camp isn't always the most appropriate."

Rubenstein said, "Speaking as a parent, I don't think there is any correlation between the cost of the camp and the quality of the camp experience."

If you do fall in love with an expensive

camp, however, there are often financial options. "Camps will have scholarships for those in need or a sliding scale for more than one camper in the household, so looking for those shouldn't be difficult to find," said Brenda P. Wiggins, Ph.D., an associate professor of parks, recreation and leisure studies at George Mason University's School of Recreation, Health and Tourism in Fairfax.

If your child is unique or has special needs, experts said not to fear, there are still many options. "Camps should offer opportunities to work with any camper, no matter what their physical, emotional or intellectual challenge might be," said Wiggins. "If a parent inquires and can't see that her or his camper will find themselves in a camp that can modify their activities to meet those challenges, then my suggestion would be to inquire with Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services' Therapeutic Recreation Section [and comparable offices for other counties] to find camps for individuals with disabilities," she said.

The right camp, experts said, is out there, and will provide experiences children will treasure for years. "Good camps provide an experience that children will look back on fondly in 10 years," said Rechen. "This is accomplished through nurturing staff, the best facilities and activities and, above all, an encompassing sense of community."

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T.C. Williams Gymnastics Hoping for Team Success

Titans have grown from Girard's solo act during freshman season.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

Two years ago, T.C. Williams gymnastics consisted of then-freshman Grace Girard's solo act.

The following year, Girard gained a pair of teammates.

This year, the Titans actually have a team — hopefully.

"We've grown," Girard said.

The 2013-14 T.C. Williams gymnastics team is composed of four members, the minimum needed to produce a team score. Injuries, inclement weather and other commitments had kept the four Titan gymnasts from competing together as of their Jan. 6 meet, but the group is hoping for team success at the Conference 7 meet on Jan. 31 at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

"I'm super excited for the regional and [conference] competitions," Girard said, "because we actually will have a shot at placing well as a team."

Girard, a club gymnast for the Arlington Aerials, revived T.C. Williams gymnastics as its lone member during the 2011-12 season. Prior to Girard, Shannon Murphy competed as T.C. Williams' only gymnast before graduating in 2009. Murphy, who was also a member of the Arlington Aerials, was the first gymnast to compete for T.C. Williams in many years, according to head coach Pete Novgrod.

After Girard spent her freshman season as a one-woman team, she convinced classmates and fellow Arlington Aerials gymnasts Holland Cathey and Jordan Mambert



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams senior Holland Cathey competes on beam during the Jan. 6 gymnastics meet at Thomas Jefferson.

to join the team for the 2012-13 season. This year, Cailyn Lager, a freshman at Minnie Howard and fellow Arlington Aerials gymnast, has joined the group, giving the Titans enough performers to compete as a team.

"I had to do some convincing to get them to join with me," Girard said, "but they happily joined."

The Titans' talent is evident. During a Jan. 6 meet at Thomas Jefferson, Girard won the all-around with a score of 33.9 and Mambert, a junior, placed third (32.725).

"They're not even showing their best stuff yet," Novgrod said.

Cathey, a senior, placed first on floor, beam and bars, but a miscue on vault kept her from winning the all-around. Girard and Mambert tied for first on vault.

Lager was unable to compete due to injury.

With just three competitors, T.C. Williams placed fourth out of five teams with a score of 94.2. Robinson won the event with a score of 125, followed by West Potomac (111) and Thomas Jefferson (103.575). Annandale finished fifth (38.5).

"It's been really fun," Novgrod said about being part of the growth of the T.C. Williams program.

When Girard was a freshman, she relied on support from other teams, like West Potomac. Now, the Titans support each other.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams junior Grace Girard won the all-around competition during a Jan. 6 gymnastics meet at Thomas Jefferson.

"It makes each meet a little more team-oriented," Girard said. "I know we don't have a full team score yet, but it's nice to have teammates that you know from your school that can help [cheer you on]."

Next step: recognition.

"It's really fun because a lot of people at T.C. are like, 'Wait, there's a T.C. gymnastics team?'" Cathey said. "We didn't even have a page in the yearbook last year."



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams junior Jordan Mambert competes during a Jan. 6 gymnastics meet at Thomas Jefferson.

MidAtlantic Erg Sprints Set for Feb. 1

Registration is underway for the 2014 MidAtlantic Erg Sprints, which will be held in the Gerry Bertier Gymnasium at T.C. Williams High School on Saturday, Feb. 1. This is the 29th year the Sprints are being held in Alexandria. In that time, the event has grown to become not only the second-largest indoor rowing competition in the world, but the world's largest competition of its kind for high school rowers.

"Indoor rowing has really taken off as a sport," said Jeff Byron, the director of the MidAtlantic Erg Sprints. "You not only have more high schools and colleges offering it as an activity for their students, but you're also seeing rowing increasingly show up in gyms, whether it's the RowZone chain of fitness studios that

have opened in Philadelphia or the indoor facility called Brooklyn Crew that opened last fall in New York. The benefits are obvious. Rowing is a low-impact, high-cardio workout that emphasizes strength, finesse and endurance. For that reason, it's a sport that's becoming popular with athletes of all ages and sizes. It's also one of the reasons why the MidAtlantic Erg Sprints has continued to grow each year."

According to Byron, last year's Erg Sprints featured nearly 1,100 high school athletes, 200 collegiate athletes, and 200 athletes from rowing clubs and other masters programs from up and down the East Coast. The athletes came from such high schools as T.C. Williams, Bishop

SEE MIDATLANTIC, PAGE 30

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Obituary

Obituary

Frances Bliss Simmons

Frances Bliss
Simmons, 89, of
Alexandria, died
peacefully on
November 13, 2013,
at Mount Vernon
Hospital surrounded
by her family. Mrs.
Simmons is preceded
in death by her hus-
band, BGen Edwin
H. Simmons, USMC.
She is survived by
her children, Edwin
Simmons, Jr., Clarke
Simmons, Bliss
Simmons Robinson,
and Courtney
Simmons Elwood;
and 5 grandchildren.
A service will be held
at Fort Myer Post
Chapel on January 23,
2014, at 3pm, fol-
lowed by interment
at Arlington National
Cemetery and a
reception at the Ft.
Myer's Officers' Club.
The arrangements are
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OBITUARY



Thomas "Tommy" Y. Johnson, Sr.

Thomas Y. Johnson, 88, of Alexandria, died on January 13,
2014 at Woodbine Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Mr.
Johnson is preceded in death by his siblings; Reba Evans,
Susie Blue, Estelle "Tillie" Butler, Morris "Brother" Johnson,
and Matthew "Neil" Johnson. He is survived by his wife of 64
years, Dorothy "Wanda" Johnson; his son, Thomas Y. "Jay"
Johnson, Jr.; and 9 nieces and nephews.

Mr. Johnson was a former volunteer at Alexandria Volunteer
Fire Department, a member of the Potomac Truck and Engine
Company #2, and a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge #38.

The family will receive friends from 2pm to 4pm, and 6pm to
8pm Friday, January 17, 2014, at Cunningham Turch Funeral
Home, 811 Cameron St. Alexandria, VA 22314. A Life Cele-
bration Service will be held at the funeral home on Saturday,
January 18, 2014 at 10:30am, followed by interment at Ivy Hill
Cemetery, Alexandria, VA.



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SPORTS

**Rowers from the
University of Virginia
are seen competing
in the 28th
MidAtlantic Erg
Sprints last year. This
year's Erg Sprints
will be held at T.C.
Williams High School
in Alexandria on
Saturday, Feb. 1.**



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

MidAtlantic Erg Sprints

FROM PAGE 28

Ireton, West Potomac, Thomas Jefferson, McLean, Yorktown, Washington-Lee, Bishop O'Connell, Lake Braddock, James Madison, St. Albans, Gonzaga, Georgetown Visitation, National Cathedral, Walt Whitman, Wilson, and Bethesda-Chevy Chase, while the collegians who competed came from such schools as George Mason, the University of Virginia, Georgetown, George Washington University, the Naval Academy and Duke. Also competing were clubs such as Alexandria Community Rowing, Potomac Boat Club, Occoquan Boat Club, Oakton Masters Rowing, Prince William Rowing Club, Capital Rowing Club, Rock Creek Rowing, Baltimore Rowing Club, Annapolis Rowing Club, and the Atlanta Rowing Club, as well as athletes from area CrossFit training clubs.

Byron said he expects a similar, if not even larger, turnout this year. He added that this year's competition will feature more than 100 events for junior, college, and masters rowers, as well as events designed for light-weight rowers, coxswains, parent/child teams and kids. The Erg Sprints will also feature events designed for adaptive rowers — a category of event specifically designed for individuals with disabilities and

one, Byron noted, that has featured Wounded Warriors in the past and will once again feature rowers from Athletes Without Limits and the Capital Adaptive Rowing Program in Washington, D.C. In addition, plans are also being made to once again offer informational seminars for young rowers who are interested in rowing beyond high school. The seminars, which were held last year for the first time and proved to be very popular with those in attendance, will be led by Olympic rowers and veteran coaches and will provide the younger athletes with information about their futures in the sport, from what colleges are looking for to what it takes to become an elite rower and compete in the Olympics and Paralympics.

Races on Feb. 1 will begin at 8 a.m. and conclude at approximately 4 p.m. The top finishers in the MidAtlantic Erg Sprints will qualify to compete in the World Indoor Rowing Championship — also known as the Crash-B Sprints — which will be held in Boston on Feb. 16. Athletes interested in competing in this year's Erg Sprints can do so by visiting www.ergsprints.com. Online registration is open until 11:59 p.m. on Jan. 28.



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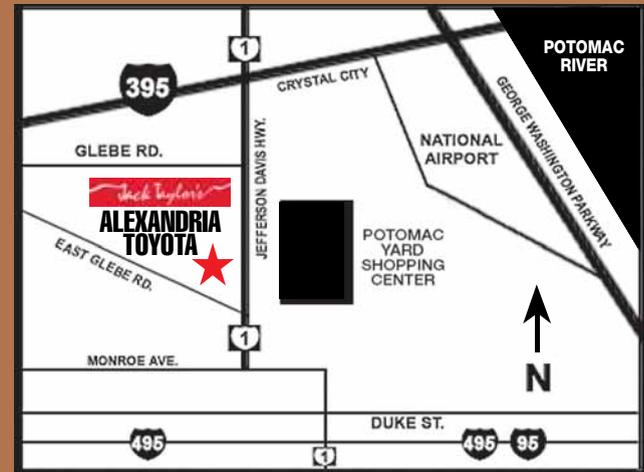
SSSAS Students Donate Toys

The St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School community recently came together to support two great causes for children: the 20th annual St. Stephen's & St. Agnes fourth grade bake sale benefiting Children's National Medical Center and the Fairfax Firefighters and Friends annual toy drive. On Dec. 11, fourth grade students turned their classrooms into bakeries for a day to raise money. On Dec. 13, the Lower School held an assembly led by the entire fourth grade who spoke to the students about how their efforts will help the patients who are in the hospital during the holidays. Fourth Grade Teacher Beth Barrow announced that teachers, staff, students, and parents helped raise \$1,260 for the project, which allowed them to purchase many new toys to donate. All the gifts will go into Dr. Bear's Closet at Children's National Medical Center for patients and their siblings to enjoy.

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Let's Go Places



<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OIL & FILTER SERVICE SPECIAL</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: large; color: red;">\$5⁰⁰ OFF</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Includes: Change oil, install Genuine Toyota oil filter, inspect & adjust all fluid levels and complimentary multi-point inspection with print out.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BRAKE SPECIAL</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: large; color: red;">\$79⁹⁵</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">PADS</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Includes: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect front & rear rotors & drums, check tire condition and inspect all hardware. Pads only.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WINTER DETAIL SPECIAL</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: large; color: red;">\$119⁹⁵</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Prepare your car's paint for the harsh winter road conditions. A full exterior buffing, paint sealant and wax, along with a vacuuming of the interior. Vans & SUVs add \$20.00.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DETAIL SPECIALS</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: large; color: red;">\$39⁹⁵</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Wash & Vacuum</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: large; color: red;">\$139⁹⁵</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Hand wash, wax & interior cleaning</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: large; color: red;">\$295⁹⁵</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Full premium detail</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TRUE START BATTERY SPECIAL</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: large; color: red;">\$129⁹⁵</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month FREE replacement, 24 month FREE roadside assistance, 60 month prorated, PLUS we'll check all battery cables & connections.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Does not apply to hybrid batteries. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">VARIABLE DISCOUNT</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">\$5.00 OFF with purchase of \$35.00 - \$49.99</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">\$10.00 OFF with purchase of \$50.00 - \$99.99</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">\$15.00 OFF with purchase of \$100.00 - \$199.99</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">\$20.00 OFF with purchase of \$200.00 - \$499.99</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">\$50.00 OFF with purchase of \$500.00 or more</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BUY 3 TIRES AND GET 4TH FOR \$1.00</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">(STANDARD FIRE FILTER)</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">GOT TIRES? NO CHARGE ROAD HAZARD PROTECTION, TIRE WARRANTY, AND FREE COURTESY MULTI-POINT INSPECTION. PRICE MATCH GUARANTEE. SEE SERVICE ADVISOR FOR DETAILS.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMPLIMENTARY MULTI-POINT INSPECTION</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Includes: Inspect tires, brakes, wipers, lights, belts & hoses & fluid levels.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: large; color: red;">\$89⁹⁵</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">PREVENT UNEVEN WEAR</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Your car's alignment suffers, and can cause uneven tire wear, steering problems and decreased fuel economy.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts & shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12% OFF ANY FACTORY RECOMMENDED MAINTENANCE</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WINTER MAINTENANCE PACKAGE SPECIAL</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: large; color: red;">\$59⁹⁵</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">INCLUDES: Install Genuine Toyota oil filter, up to 5 qts of oil, tire rotation, tire tread inspection, set proper tire pressure, battery check (with print-out), inspect brakes, inspect drive belts, check & top off all fluids and check engine coolant/antifreeze.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WE WILL MEET OR BEAT ANY LOCAL TOYOTA DEALERSHIP'S CURRENT ADVERTISED SERVICE SPECIALS</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FREE QUICK ALIGNMENT CHECK</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">We will take the guess work out. Stop paying for alignments you don't need.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: large; color: red;">ADJUSTMENTS, \$89.95</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</p>	

Jack Taylor's
ALEXANDRIA
TOYOTA / SCION

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JUST MINUTES FROM REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT!


TOYOTA

Let's Go Places



Old Town Alexandria

Built circa 1860, this classic brownstone townhouse has been meticulously and thoughtfully renovated. Gaze at the spectacular 10 1/2-foot ceilings, original woodwork and pine floors, plus four fireplaces with handsome mantels. Formal living and dining rooms are filled with gracious natural light. Gorgeous master suite with outdoor balcony, media room, den, upstairs library, plus interior elevator to all four floors. One of a kind in Old Town that also offers off street parking. MLS# AX8251546

\$2,550,000



Alexandria/Beverly Estates \$884,000

Grand curb appeal to this expanded 4-bedroom, 2.5-bath split-level colonial on corner lot with classic living & dining areas, bright family room, enlarged kitchen/breakfast room, screened porch, mud room, & walk-out rec room. George Mason School. 910 Allison St. MLS# AX8252932

Babs Beckwith

703.627.5421
www.BabsBeckwith.com

Sue Goodhart

703.362.3221
www.TheGoodhartGroup.com

Barbara Cousens

703.966.4180
www.BarbaraCousens.com



Alexandria \$579,900

Beautifully sited on fully fenced corner lot, this pristine home offers numerous recent updates. Open kitchen features granite and stainless. Gleaming hardwoods on two levels, living room with fireplace, dining room, 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths. 1301 Croton Dr. MLS# FX8252554



Old Town Alexandria \$899,000

Sophisticated urban living & convenience and the space to enjoy it! 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, featuring hardwoods, high ceilings, gourmet kitchen with sunny breakfast area, posh master bedroom suite, office loft, media room with fireplace, 2-car garage. Quality finished throughout. 414 Oronoco St.



Alexandria/Wellington \$2,950,000

English stone cottage on the Potomac River minutes from Old Town Alexandria and historic Mount Vernon. Three bedrooms, three baths, family room, fireplaces, wood floors, serene private location. MLS# FX8247546

Noel Kaupinen

703.200.1165
www.noelk.com

Susan Taylor

703.927.3000
www.callsusantaylor.com

Anne Martone

703.717.6344
www.McEneaney.com



Alexandria/Colecroft Station \$408,000

Park the car in the garage and just walk to get coffee, a bite to eat or catch the Metro, just one block away! Sweeping views from the private balcony of this two-bedroom, one-bath condo. Gleaming wood floors and newer HVAC. 505 Braddock Road E #702. MLS# AX8241865



Alexandria \$355,000

This 1-bedroom condo has an exceptional location just 4 blocks from the Potomac River and bike path and a couple blocks to Jones Point. The unit itself has a wood-burning fireplace, balcony overlooking the pool, built-in bookshelves. Extra storage space and garage space. MLS# AX8251908



Alexandria \$189,900

One-level, 3-bedroom, 2-bath condo. New kitchen with granite and stainless (2010) opens to the family room with fireplace and dining room. Brand new stairs and deck lead to the front door. Carport for 2 cars. Hang tag allows parking for three cars! Washer and dryer (2010). MLS# FX8233943

Elizabeth Lucchesi

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www.LizLuke.com

Cecily Winchell

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Laurel Conger

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